

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2007 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from May 23 to June 1 of this year. During this 10 day exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Participants also will be hosted by a Bundestag member during a district visit.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for 10 days July 12–20. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Members of Congress. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host

one or two staffers in their Member's district in July, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Members of the House and Senate who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a résumé and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications may be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HB–28, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 14, 2008.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH H. (JIM)  
ZARZYCKI

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Joseph H. "Jim" Zarzycki, director of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Graduating with honors in chemical engineering in 1969 from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Joseph Zarzycki went on to earn a master's degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University in 1970. He is also a graduate of the Defense Systems Management College's Program Management Course and holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is a licensed professional engineer in Maryland and New Jersey.

Jim has over 25 years of leadership in public and private organizations dealing with toxic and hazardous materials. He has worked in the Army's Chemical Demilitarization and Installation Program, as well as the Army Chemical Systems Laboratory, now the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. Throughout most of the 1990s, Jim worked in the environmental consulting industry, directing the functions of waste management locations across the nation.

In 1998, Jim returned to government service as the director of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. There he has directed the efforts of over 1,600 scientists, engineers, and technicians working in the areas of chemical and biological defense, smoke obscurants, and non-lethal weapons technologies. He also manages technology development efforts in support of several important national security programs including chemical demilitarization, the chemical and biological warfare treaties, and chemical and biological counterterrorism.

Jim is a recipient of the 2002 Presidential Rank meritorious Executive Award. In both

2002 and 2007 he was named Federal Laboratory Consortium Technology Transfer Department of Defense Director of the Year. Most recently, his organization, the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, was selected as the Army Laboratory of the Year in 2007.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Joseph H. "Jim" Zarzycki. His legacy as a brilliant engineer will be forever remembered in his service to our domestic agencies as well as our armed forces. It is with great pride that I congratulate Jim Zarzycki on his exemplary career in chemical and biological defense.

EXAMINATION OF VOTE ON H.  
RES. 847

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, one of the reasons the United States of America has remained for more than two centuries a model to the world is the constitutional promise of the first amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

I did not vote against H. Res. 847, but I strongly believe it should never have been brought to the floor of the House of Representatives. It is appropriate for Congress to address moral and ethical issues of societal import, but not issues of religious import. Congress should not legislate on whether Jesus is peoples' "savior" or whether Christmas symbolizes "God's redemption and mercy." Despite some good phrases, H. Res. 847 was inappropriate legislation that deserved neither a "yes" nor a "no." I voted present, as I have occasionally done for legislation that I believe should never have been brought forward.

Those of us who practice our deeply held religious beliefs are able to worship more freely than anywhere else in the world because of this important protection that our founders installed so wisely. My Christian religious faith not only supports my entire life and dedication to service; it also leads me often to speak out on religious tolerance in the world.

Some people have noted that earlier this year I had voted to honor the Muslim observance of Ramadan and then recently refused to vote to honor Christmas. That is not really true. In October I voted in favor of a resolution that at the time of the Muslim Ramadan expressed "friendship" and "respect" for Muslims and commended Muslims who reject "hatred" and "bigotry" and who present Islam as supporting "tolerance and full civil and political rights." That was a message of societal and political import, not religious, and different in tone and content from the recent resolution celebrating Christmas.

That is the way I see it, and when it comes to votes on the floor of the House, I call them as I see them. I trust my constituents will see

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

it as a thoughtful and conscientious vote, even if they disagree with it.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. EXPLORER I SATELLITE AND THE BIRTH OF THE UNITED STATES' SPACE EXPLORATION PROGRAM

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the launch of the U.S. Explorer I satellite, and the birth of the United States' space exploration program. I am pleased that Chairman BART GORDON, Ranking Member RALPH HALL, Rep. TOM FEENEY, and Rep. NICK LAMPSON have joined me as original cosponsors and I thank them for their support.

On January 31, 1958, the United States successfully launched its first satellite into space and began a 50-year journey of exploration and achievement in space that continues to this day.

Yet the launch of Explorer I was not just a "photo-op". Explorer I carried a scientific package that included a cosmic ray detector and marked the first ever use of a satellite to carry out scientific research in outer space. Because of that detector, developed by Dr. James Van Allen of the University of Iowa, the United States made a significant discovery about the Earth's environment—namely, the discovery of regions of energetic charged particles trapped in the Earth's magnetic field—later referred to as the Van Allen radiation belts.

In addition, Explorer I was the first in a succession of small scientific spacecraft that continue to be an integral component of the U.S. space science program and an invaluable training ground for young scientists and engineers.

In light of all that, I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in extending our profound thanks and appreciation for the contributions of the late Dr. James Van Allen and his team as well as those of the individuals at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Army Ballistic Missile Agency who made possible the success of Explorer I and the birth of our space program.

Since the launch of Explorer I, the U.S. space program has maintained a record of high aspirations and remarkable accomplishments. America sent the first astronauts to the Moon and has launched robotic probes to study each of the planets in the solar system as well as the Earth's Moon. Moreover, American spacecraft have helped investigate the origin and structure of the universe and the formation of galaxies and stars—including our own Sun. Finally, our space program has delivered significant benefits to our citizens through communications and weather satellites, navigational and positioning systems, and remote sensing satellites that have helped increase our understanding of the Earth and its environment and our ability to manage our resources.

All in all, it has been an exciting half-century of U.S. human and robotic space exploration.

As we honor Explorer I and the birth of the U.S. space program, it is appropriate to re-

member that our efforts in space exploration have inspired generations of our young people to pursue careers in science and engineering. In addition, it is clear that the scientific and engineering advances of the U.S. space program have yielded dividends that have helped promote America's technological preeminence in the world as well as foster economic growth here at home.

As we look forward to the next 50 years in space exploration and utilization, it is important that Congress continue to support science and engineering educators and programs that will help prepare the men and women who will lead the United States in pushing back the frontiers of space exploration in coming years.

In closing, I think that America's space program has been a vital contributor to the nation's well being and standing in the world, as well as to significant scientific and technological advances over the last five decades. It is fitting and proper that we pause to celebrate and honor the anniversary of Explorer I and the birth of the U.S. space program—and to rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of a robust and vital space program over the next 50 years.

I hope that all Members will join me and my cosponsors in supporting this resolution.

RECOGNIZING JAMES JOHNSON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Johnson of Chillicothe, Missouri. On February 3, 2008, James will retire as Chief Executive Officer of the Hendrick Medical Center in Chillicothe, Missouri.

Jim joined Hendrick Medical Center in 1998 as Chief Executive Officer and brings more than 35 years of health care experience to his position. While in Chillicothe Jim has been active in many community organizations as a leader, a volunteer and a board member. He was president of Rotary, Habitat for Humanity and the YMCA and is the current president of the Livingston County Community Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing James Johnson, whose dedication to Hendrick Medical Center and the city of Chillicothe has been truly inspirational. I wish James and his family the best of luck in the future and I am honored to serve him in the United States Congress.

WHY AMERICA NEEDS A LITTLE LESS LAISSEZ-FAIRE

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, a recent Op-Ed written by the Honorable BARNEY FRANK, Chairman of the House Committee on Financial Services, appeared in the Financial Times. Mr. FRANK, I believe, succinctly describes the challenges that face Federal policy makers and a new American president. Too often these days, the market fails to protect

the interests of the common good. I look forward to working with a president and a Congress that understands the vital role of a little government regulation and intervention. I am entering Mr. FRANK's Op-Ed into the RECORD so that our colleagues, and interested Americans, can consider what lies ahead for our country if we do not carefully examine how we arrived in the current situation.

[From the Financial Times, Jan. 14, 2008]

WHY AMERICA NEEDS A LITTLE LESS LAISSEZ-FAIRE

(By Barney Frank)

As we prepare for this autumn's election, the results are in on America's 30-year experiment with radical economic deregulation. Income inequality has risen to levels not seen since the 1920s and the collapse of the unregulated portion of the mortgage and secondary markets threatens the health of the overall economy.

These two economic failures will be major issues in the forthcoming presidential election and, importantly, there is an emerging Democratic consensus standing in sharp contrast to the laissez faire Republican approach.

There are two central elements of this consensus. Democrats believe that government's role as regulator is essential in maintaining confidence in the integrity and fairness of markets, and we believe that economic growth alone is not enough to reverse unacceptable levels of income inequality. In the wake of the subprime mortgage crisis, credit markets round the world contracted sharply in response to concerns among market participants about the value of exotic and opaque securities being offered in largely unregulated secondary markets. This staggering implosion and its damaging and widespread reverberations make it clear that a mature capitalist economy is as likely to suffer from too little regulation as from too much.

With respect to income inequality, since the end of the last recession—a period of steady economic growth—average earnings for the vast majority of workers have fallen in real terms. During this period, after-tax incomes of the top 1 per cent nearly doubled.

Whether because of globalisation, technology or other factors, it is clear that market forces have produced too much inequality and government has not adequately used its capacity to mitigate the impact of these forces.

Conservatives have long argued that government efforts to address these issues would damage the economy. They are, of course, the same people who predicted that there would be an economic disaster after Bill Clinton and the Democratic Congress raised marginal tax rates in 1993, and who opposed other tax increases on upper-income people. Economic growth in the ensuing years was among the strongest in the postwar era. It is now clear that growth in the private sector is consistent with a far greater variation in many aspects of public policy—including taxation and regulation—than conservatives claim. In fact, appropriate intervention with respect to prudential market regulation is necessary to promote growth, and its absence—as we have learned—can retard it.

As recently as a year ago, one often heard the argument that U.S. financial activity would migrate offshore unless we moved to further deregulate markets. There is little evidence to support this claim. In fact, it is now clear that what has been migrating to the rest of the world are the problems associated with securities based on bad loans—often originated by unregulated institutions in the U.S. Banks in the UK and Germany were forced to close, either as a result of

holding large portfolios of these securities or because they could not roll over debt backed by them.

Widespread securitisation, and use of the "originate to distribute" model, has turned out to be far less than the unmitigated boon it had once appeared.

The market did its job with great efficiency in exploiting the benefits of securitisation but government failed to make good on its responsibilities. The failure of regulation to keep pace with innovation left us with no replacement for the discipline provided by the lender-borrower relationship that securitisation dissolves. Increasing and largely unregulated leverage multiplies the corrosive effect of this change.

In response to the current crisis, it appears that the regulatory tide may, at long last, be turning.

In 1994 a Democratic Congress—the last before the Republican takeover marked the arrival of the deregulators—passed the homeowners equity protection act, giving the Federal Reserve the power to regulate all home mortgage loans. The avatar of deregulation, Alan Greenspan, then Fed chairman, flatly refused to use any of that authority.

In contrast, today's Fed will soon issue rules using that authority. That represents a significant repudiation of the previous view. While the proposals made by the Democratic presidential candidates differ in detail, they are to a substantial extent consistent with the argument I have made here. Their Republican counterparts continue to advocate the hands-off approach pursued by the Bush administration. As a result, we are likely to have a healthy debate about the role of government in supporting a robust capitalist economy in the 21st century. It is important to note that this debate is not about policy details but represents fundamentally different views about the nature of our modern economy.

I believe the American people will decide that we should enact policies that seek to curb growing inequality and provide some check on market excesses.

#### HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTRIC FACTORY

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Philadelphia music landmark, The Electric Factory. For 40 years, The Electric Factory concert venue and its founders Larry Magid and Allen Spivak have hosted such legendary acts as Jimi Hendrix, The Who, and Pink Floyd.

The original Electric Factory began in 1968 as one of rock music's first ever live venues. First located in a converted tire warehouse, the venue moved in 1994 to its current site in an actual converted electric factory. This two story building has standing-room-only space for up to 3,000 audience members and gives spectators the unique ability to view a portion of the backstage.

Not only is The Electric Factory known for its major performers but it is also celebrated and respected for its philanthropic efforts throughout the years. Electric Factory Concerts has raised millions for local and international charities as well as local schools and

children's programs in the area. In 1985, Electric Factory Concerts raised over 75 millions dollars for famine relief by hosting a large charity concert at JFK stadium.

Today, the venue still remains in its same location and is still led by one of its founders Larry Magid. The Electric Factory now features a variety of musical genres including heavy metal, rap, and rock and continues to hold philanthropic events ever year.

The Electric Factory is highly thought of as one of the nation's leading indoor concert venues. I want to congratulate and thank founders, Larry Magid and Allen Spivak, for their continued service to Philadelphia and South Jersey.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MARY LU PLUNKETT

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Lu Plunkett who this week is being honored by the Queens County Democratic party for her 50 years of outstanding and tireless work for the party and its candidates.

Mary Lu Plunkett was born in Brooklyn, New York, on March 26, 1928, but she moved to the great borough of Queens in 1949 after she married Queens-born John Plunkett. The two settled in Jackson Heights, the neighborhood where they met when they attended a dance. The couple raised two children, Steven and Jamie, and are the proud grandparents of Matthew, Christopher and Caroline.

Mary Lu's foray into Queens politics began with the friendship she shared with her mother-in-law Harriet Plunkett. The two joined the Amerind Democratic Club where they made great strides to improve the community in which they resided. Mary Lu later put to work the political savvy she acquired by volunteering countless hours for the Queens Democratic Organization. Then in 1956, she began working as a full time secretary at Democratic Headquarters.

Mary Lu's exceptional office and organizational skills have kept Queens Democratic Headquarters running smoothly for half a century. She has earned the respect and admiration from everybody with whom she has worked. These include almost all the Queens Democratic elected officials, candidates running for office, and party officials in recent memory.

Mary Lu has served under numerous county chairmen including Moses Weinstein, Jim Roe, Tom Manton, and the present leader, our colleague JOSEPH CROWLEY. She also, over the many years of her outstanding service, ran numerous fundraisers attended by such political legends as President John Kennedy, President Jimmy Carter, Senator TED KENNEDY, Governor Hugh Carey, Governor Mario Cuomo, Mayor Ed Koch, President Bill Clinton and Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON.

While serving as one of the pillars of the Queens Democratic office, Mary Lu has witnessed the many changes that have taken place along the political landscape in Queens. These include everything from changes in elective office to shifts in the borough's popu-

lation and demographics. However, throughout these turnovers and transformations, Mary Lu has always urged local citizens to be informed about their government and encouraged countless Queens residents to become involved in the political process.

About 25 years ago Mary Lu also began an annual fundraiser for the children of St. Gertrude's Parish in Far Rockaway, the community where the Plunketts presently reside. From its inception, the fundraiser was embraced by the borough and remains a worthy and wildly popular event.

In addition, Mary Lu continues to organize the affairs for the Women's Democratic Organization of Queens County, a group that still attracts a large audience.

In 1976, Mary Lu's daughter Jamie joined the staff of the Queens County Democratic Headquarters. Together, this mother and daughter team continue to administer and manage the office.

I know that all those involved in Democratic politics in Queens will be forever grateful for all of Mary Lu Plunkett's extraordinary contributions to the Queens Democratic Organization. She has made the Queens Democratic Headquarters a stronger workplace, which in turn has made Queens a better place to live and work.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in congratulating Mary Lu Plunkett for 50 years of outstanding service to the Queens Democratic Organization. I am confident that she will continue to achieve success for many more years to come.

#### FREEDOM FOR DR. JOSE LUIS GARCÍA PANEQUE

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to again remind my colleagues about Dr. Jose Luis García Paneque, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba. The reason I rise once again to bring attention to Dr. García Paneque's imprisonment is because I have been told that his medical condition in Castro's gulag has seriously deteriorated.

Dr. García Paneque is a surgeon by training, an independent journalist and a member of the Cuban Independent Medical Association. As a director of the independent news agency Libertad, and administrator of the Carlos J. Finlay independent library in Las Tunas, Cuba, Dr. García Paneque has devoted his life to exposing the truth about the horrors inflicted upon the Cuban people by the dictatorship in Havana.

On March 18, 2003, the totalitarian Cuban regime began an island-wide crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists in order to stifle nonviolent political dissent. As part of the crackdown the regime arrested Dr. García Paneque and charged him with "acts against the independence or territorial integrity of the state" because of his work with the unofficial Cuban Medical Association. Just weeks after his arrest, in what was nothing more than a farce of a judicial proceeding, Dr. García Paneque was sentenced to 24 years in the totalitarian gulag. The real reason he was arrested is that he is a supporter of freedom and

democracy who has worked to expose the depraved horror that is the Cuban tyranny.

Since his initial incarceration in the sub-human conditions of the tyranny's totalitarian dungeons, Dr. García Paneque's weight has dropped from a healthy 190 pounds to an emaciated 100 pounds. Since last year prison authorities at the Las Mangas Prison have not allowed Dr. García Paneque access to fresh air or sunlight.

According to his mother, Dr. García Paneque suffers from dizziness due to a serious episode of diarrhea and profuse rectal bleeding and may be suffering from a duodenal ulcer. It is reported that the bleeding is a complication related to an eating disorder known as Malabsorption Syndrome, which he developed in prison. The condition does not allow food he ingests to nourish his body.

Dr. García Paneque's health while languishing in a hellish dungeon has been a point of constant concern for some time now. In June Dr. García Paneque was diagnosed with a kidney tumor and pneumonia. As a result of the pneumonia, he suffers from pleural effusion of the right lung and constant chest colds. Yet as Dr. García Paneque's condition continues to deteriorate, his jailers have refused to allow him consultation with doctors not affiliated with the prison or even provide him adequate medical care.

Madam Speaker, this is a textbook case of how the Cuban totalitarian regime treats prisoners of conscience who dare speak the truth and call for democracy and human rights.

But this cruel and inhumane treatment is not confined to those inside the regime's gulags. Since Dr. García Paneque's arrest, his wife and four young children faced intense harassments and attacks by angry mobs on their home. They have since fled Cuba and were granted asylum in the United States. His wife says that Dr. García Paneque "takes great comfort from his Bible . . . which he reads every day." While his wife says his physical health continues to suffer, his "spiritual health is strong."

On October 24, 2007, Dr. García Paneque's wife and his daughter Shirlen were received and honored by President George W. Bush at the White House, where the President publicly called upon the regime to release Dr. García Paneque forthwith.

Even though Dr. García Paneque has endured constant physical and psychological torture at the hands of regime thugs, he continues to demand human rights and dignity for the people of Cuba. He is languishing in the squalor of the infernal gulag at the whim of a merciless tyrant, simply because he believes in freedom, truth, democracy, and human rights for the people of Cuba.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that journalists and physicians like Dr. García Paneque are locked in dungeons for writing the truth. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Jose Luis García Paneque before his prison sentence turns into a death sentence.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor David M. Rubenstein, Co-Founder and Managing Director of The Carlyle Group, an American private equity firm. Born and raised in Baltimore, David Rubenstein graduated from Baltimore City College and went on to graduate magna cum laude from Duke University and earn his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was an editor of the Chicago Law Review. Prior to founding The Carlyle Group, David served as the Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy during the Carter Administration.

Most recently, David has become more well-known thanks to a Sotheby's auction item he purchased in December. On December 17, 2008, with a winning bid of over \$21 million, David acquired the last copy of the Magna Carta remaining in the United States. The original Magna Carta, first signed in Britain in 1215, established the rights of the English citizens and placed checks on the power of the ruling monarch. Our own U.S. Constitution incorporates ideas and phrases almost directly from this historic document. The copy David purchased in December is a copy from 1297 when it was signed into law by the British Parliament.

Since 1985, it has been displayed at the National Archives as part of the Charters of Freedom exhibit, alongside the original Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights. David has announced that the copy will continue to be housed at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

David is an active member of several Boards of Directors or Trustees, including Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Chicago, Lincoln and Kennedy Centers for the Performing Arts, and the Council on Foreign Relations. David is also a member of The Business Council, the Madison Council of the Library of Congress, the Trilateral Commission and the National Advisory Committee of J.P. Morgan Chase and the Washington Economic Club, of which he is President-elect.

In addition to his extensive involvement in numerous organizations, David is also active in philanthropy. He has made significant contributions and donations to the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Duke's Terry Stanford Institute of Public Policy, the Lincoln Center and the Johns Hopkins Medical System here in Maryland.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor David M. Rubenstein. His legacy as a leader in policy and finance will be matched only by his devotion to philanthropic projects. It is with great pride that I congratulate David Rubenstein on his exemplary career in business, law and government.

#### SMALL BUSINESS TELEWORK PROMOTION ACT

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Small Business Telework Promotion Act" to assist our Nation's small businesses in establishing successful telework programs for their employees.

Across America, numerous employers are responding to the needs of their employees and establishing telework programs. In 2000, there were an estimated 16.5 million teleworkers. By the end of 2004, there were an estimated 30 million teleworkers, representing an increase of almost 100 percent in 4 short years. Unfortunately, the majority of growth in new teleworkers comes from organizations employing over 1,500 people, while just a few years ago, most teleworkers worked for small to medium-sized organizations.

By not taking advantage of evolving technology to establish successful telework programs, some small businesses are losing out on a host of benefits that will save them money, and make them more competitive. Successful telework programs can help small business owners to retain valuable employees by allowing them to work from a remote location, such as their home or a telework center.

In addition to the cost savings realized by businesses that employ teleworkers, there are a number of related benefits to society and the employee. For example, telecommuters help reduce traffic and cut down on air pollution by staying off the roads during rush hour. Fully 80 percent of home-only teleworkers commute to work on days they are not teleworking. Telework can also give employees more time to spend with their families, and reduce stress levels by eliminating the pressure of a long commute.

The bill establishes a program in the Small Business Administration, SBA, to raise awareness about telework among small business employers and to encourage those small businesses to establish telework programs for their employees.

Additionally, an important provision in the bill directs the SBA Administrator to undertake special efforts for businesses owned by, or employing, persons with disabilities and disabled America veterans. At the end of the day, telework can provide more than just environmental benefits and improved quality of life. It can open the door to people who have been precluded from working in a traditional office setting due to physical disabilities.

Several hurdles to establishing successful telework programs could be cleared by enacting our legislation. The bill will go a long way towards educating small business owners on how they can draft guidelines to make a telework program an affordable, manageable reality and expand their own telework policies.

Here is a brief outline of the bill's provisions—

Section One—provides a short title, namely "The Small Business Telework Promotion Act".

Section Two—sets forth findings regarding the potential benefits of increasing the extent to which employees have the option of teleworking.

Section Three—directs the Small Business Administration (SBA) to carry out a program to raise awareness of telework among small businesses and to encourage them to offer telework options to their employees. This program is to include special outreach to businesses owned by or employing people with disabilities, including disabled veterans.

**RECOGNIZING JOSHUA AARON DICK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Aaron Dick, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Aaron Dick for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**EXPLANATION OF DUTY  
SUSPENSION PROCESS**

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, the government often negotiates agreements or promulgates regulations that may produce unintended consequences for certain individuals. In such instances, Congress will review the implementation of the law and try to rectify those unintended problems even if the general requirements should remain. For example, exemptions are made in transportation regulations, Government land use, and trade legislation. Such is the case with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, which was enacted in 1989. Since then Congress has acted occasionally to reduce, suspend, or repeal duties on certain imports as a matter of economic fairness and competitiveness.

Tariffs serve not only to raise revenue for the Government, but also to benefit American business and industry and holdings. Tariffs are notoriously complicated in their effects, and the policies are very difficult to get right.

Each of the nine bills I prepared recently would either suspend or reduce the import duty on a specific chemical compound. Each bill and the chemical compound in question is publicly available and open for all to see and comment on. I believe such openness is an important part of effective Government.

By suspending the import duty on products not made domestically in the United States, Congress can remove an economic barrier

that might send production abroad—taking with it good-paying jobs—and also can help lower costs to consumers for the final products. These bills were all submitted to comply with procedures and criteria set by the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. None of the chemical compounds is manufactured in the U.S., the value of each of the requested duty suspensions is no more than \$500,000, and their suspensions can be enforced by U.S. Customs officials. The products produced using the imported feedstocks are deemed to be desirable to produce and use in the U.S.

Introduction of the bills is just the beginning of a long process of scrutiny by the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. International Trade Commission, and the Department of Commerce. Each one will seek information about potential domestic production, present and future imports, and will research the revenue loss associated with the suspension. Additionally, the Subcommittee on Trade will solicit public comment from all interested parties. An objection at any point throughout this process can disqualify the product for further consideration. At the end of this process, the Committee on Ways and Means will put together a miscellaneous tariff bill that includes hundreds of items that have met these rigorous criteria. I expect that temporarily suspending the duty on the nine products I have requested will help our local economy by making American manufacturers more competitive in the global marketplace.

**HONORING DR. VERNON SINGLETON OF DAVIS, CALIFORNIA**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Vernon Singleton on the occasion of a symposium of Wine Phenolic Research being held in his honor by the American Society of Enology and Viticulture.

Dr. Singleton was born in Mill City, Oregon on June 28, 1923. In 1951 he earned a PhD in Protein Biochemistry from Purdue University, where he had also received his bachelor and masters of sciences degrees. He moved to the University of California, Davis in 1958 where he would begin a long and distinguished career as one of the foremost enologists in the world.

He is perhaps best known for his groundbreaking work on wine phenolics and antioxidants. This research has opened the door for an ever expanding scope of knowledge concerning wine and its potential health benefits. He is also the author of more than 220 academic papers and many books that have become classics in the field of enology. For these contributions he has received numerous honors including twice winning the Outstanding Paper of the Year Award from the American Society for Enology and Viticulture in 1986 and 1992, the Office Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin Prize in Enology in 1998 for the best contribution to wine literature in any language for 1997–98, as well as being a life fellow of the American Institute of Chemists and a Charter member of the Phytochemical

Society of North America. He retired in 1991, but remained a professor emeritus and continued publishing for another ten very productive years.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting at this time that we honor the long career and great achievements of Dr. Vernon Singleton. His dedication as a teacher and mentor has allowed him to touch the lives of his students and peers alike, and his research continues to guide and inspire the next generation of chemists and enologists around the world to explore the truly limitless possibilities in their fields.

**THE BIPARTISAN FORMER SOVIET UNION MINORITY RELIEF ACT OF 2008**

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague RON KLEIN (D-FL), I am introducing bipartisan legislation to curb the rise of hate crime violence in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Acts of violence against Jews and other minorities are on the rise in the former Soviet Union. In Russia, xenophobic candidates are sweeping to power as state-sponsored hate speech incites anti-Semitism and violence. Widespread discrimination persists against religious and ethnic minorities, including Central Asians, Armenians, Roman Catholics and Evangelical Christians.

In Ukraine, neo-Nazi crimes against Jews are on the rise. Just last night, a rabbi was severely beaten on a main street in the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnepropetrovsk. The assailants have not been identified and no arrests have been reported. The key test of a democracy is tolerance for minorities—and this fledgling democracy is struggling.

In Belarus, human rights conditions continue to deteriorate. The dictator himself spouts anti-Semitic slurs through government media. The need for emergency resettlement of vulnerable communities may soon emerge.

The Former Soviet Union Minority Relief Act of 2008 would strengthen rule of law and democracy initiatives in Ukraine, undermine hate speech in Russia and Belarus through international broadcasting, and allow for emergency evacuations from Belarus or Russia if the need emerges.

When the Soviet Union fell, we thought the fight for persecuted minorities ended. Unfortunately, widespread discrimination persists against religious and ethnic minorities. The international community needs a wake up call that Jews and other minorities are under attack in the Former Soviet Union.

**HONORING HRANT DINK**

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, a little over a year ago, on January 19, 2007, Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink was murdered for reporting on the Armenian Genocide. The first anniversary of his

death should serve as a reminder of the ongoing need for improvement in Turkish-Armenian relations.

Hrant Dink worked as the editor of "Agos", a bilingual paper designed to reach both Turks and Armenians. He was an outspoken advocate of democratic change and freedom of speech.

While Turkish officials rightly condemned the political killing, Turkey has not yet repealed Article 301 of the Turkish Penal code, which makes it illegal to discuss the Armenian Genocide. This law, which criminalizes free speech, hampers Turkey's efforts to restore their relationship with Armenia, a goal the Turkish government claims to desire.

Hrant Dink's death was more than an assassination; it was an attack on the principle of free speech. Turkish officials should use the anniversary of his death as an opportunity to restore open communication between the citizens of both countries. Lasting reconciliation must be built on uninhibited dialogue and Turkey can begin building the road to restoration by recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

We remember the legacy of Hrant Dink by encouraging Turkey to tolerate democratic freedoms and rebuild their relationship with Armenia.

HONORING PASTER LLOYD  
MADDOUX AND HIS WIFE PAT

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of great community and spiritual leaders, Paster Lloyd Maddoux and his wife Pat for their 25 years of service to the ministry at the First Assembly of God in Conroe, Texas. Pastor Maddoux is a true servant to society and has left a lasting impression on numerous lives.

Pastor Maddoux has touched countless lives—when people are in every season of life. Pastor Maddoux has celebrated with families when he's officiated at their weddings and offered blessing over the birth of a new baby. He's helped new Christian believers grow closer in their walks with their Savior through Bible teachings and baptism. He has helped honor the lives of men and women who have passed away with funerals that celebrated their lives and offered hope of eternity through Jesus Christ.

A Pastor is a servant to his congregation and community. Pastor Maddoux has opened up his home church as a shelter for Hurricane Rita victims, where over 300 people and pets took shelter. He and Pat have opened their home many times to help strangers, neighbors and friends.

Not only has he touched lives in our community, but he has reached out to do missions all over this country, as well as abroad in Mexico, the Philippines, Seoul, Korea, West Africa and Turkey. Pastor Maddoux has also touched lives through participating in prison ministries.

He has served in numerous positions such as the board of Greater Houston Teen Challenge and mission boards for the South Texas District-North Houston Section. Pastor Maddoux was a National Finals Chairman for the Oral Roberts University Educational Fel-

lowship. He is the current Presbyterian of the North Houston Section of the Assemblies of God Ministers and also served as a committee member. He has helped with Lifestyle Ministries Radio and Lifestyle Christian School, which began in 1985. He is the originator of many traditions in our community, such as the National Day of Prayer in Conroe and the Men's Day of Prayer. He was also a manager at the Kids Camp Victory.

Madam Speaker, Pastor Maddoux and his wife Pat are rare individuals whom I respect greatly. Our nation joins me in honoring both of them today for their 25 years of service to our community and First Assembly of God in Conroe, Texas.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT HUBER

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to my longtime friend and one-time colleague Robert Huber in recognition of being awarded the Strathearn Lifetime Achievement Award by the Simi Valley Community Foundation.

Bob Huber has been involved in my hometown of Simi Valley, California, for more than 40 years, and I have known him for more than 30 of those years. We worked together on many community projects over the years and served together some decades ago on the Simi Valley City Council.

In addition to his service on the City Council, Bob is past chairman of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, an active member of Rotary Noon Time, and an elected member of the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees.

He is also a charter Board Member of the Simi Valley Community Foundation.

It's his passion for the community, and the Community Foundation in particular, for which he is being honored with the Strathearn Lifetime Achievement Award.

Several years ago the Community Foundation nearly closed due to a lack of community identity. Bob is credited with turning that around. His ideas, passion, and drive helped refocus the foundation. Today, it is again growing and thriving. One of Bob's inspirations was the foundation's successful Mayor's Dinner, which he has chaired for the past 3 years. This and other successful events have enabled the foundation to raise and grant monies to other charities annually.

Bob is also a trial lawyer, but nobody's perfect.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in thanking my friend Bob Huber for his decades of service to the community and join the Simi Valley Community Foundation in tribute to a job well done.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S.  
ARMY SPC JON MICHAEL "MIKE"  
SCHOOLCRAFT III

**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on January 19, 2008, the great states of Indiana and Ohio lost a brave son. Army SPC Jon Michael "Mike" Schoolcraft III was killed in Iraq from injuries sustained when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. A native of Wapakoneta, OH, several members of Specialist Schoolcraft's family currently live in Madison, IN, in Jefferson County.

Mike, as he was known, enlisted in the Army with a friend after graduating from Wapakoneta High School in northwest Ohio in 2001. At Wapakoneta High he excelled at wrestling and baseball, and enjoyed spending time outdoors.

Before embarking on his second 15-month deployment, Schoolcraft promised his mother that this would be his last deployment. He looked forward to finding a stateside military contracting job and living with his new wife.

Specialist Schoolcraft's father, Mike, Jr., described him as a "typical All-American boy." He was a hero to his father. He further described his son as "very respectful" and that the Army took this wonderful young man and made him better.

Before deploying, Schoolcraft told his mother that he was going to Iraq for a reason: to keep his loved ones safe.

SPC Jon Michael Schoolcraft III is a true American hero. His sacrifice for our Nation deserves our most heartfelt thanks. I, along with Specialist Schoolcraft's family, and the towns of Madison, IN, and Wapakoneta, OH, will mourn Mike's premature death. His friends and family are in my prayers.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS TO  
REDUCE RISKS OF WILDFIRES TO  
FOREST-AREA COMMUNITIES

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, Colorado and other Rocky Mountain States face a very real risk of severe wildfires in our forest lands, which directly threaten many communities and critical resources, including water supplies.

There are several reasons. One is drought. Another is past management that over-emphasized fire suppression, even though fire is an inescapable part of the ecology of our western forests, with the result that in many parts of the forests there is an accumulation of underbrush and small-diameter trees greater than would be present if there had been more, smaller fires over the years. They provide the extra fuel that can turn a small fire into an intense inferno.

The problem has been made worse by our growing population and increasing development in the places where communities meet the forests—the "wildland-urban interface." And when you add the effects of widespread



infestations of insects, you have a recipe for even worse to come.

Many species of bark beetles, such as the mountain pine beetle, are native to our forests. They place stress on trees by burrowing through the bark. If a tree is healthy, it can defend itself by producing sap to repel and expel the invaders. But if the defense fails, the insects lay their eggs in the woody material below the bark. Once the eggs hatch, they feed on the tree's fiber and disrupt the flow of water and nutrients from the tree's roots to its needles and branches. In addition, the invading insects bring in fungi and other invaders that further damage the tree. If enough insects are able to penetrate the tree and lay eggs, the tree dies. The offspring then mature and fly to another tree and the cycle begins anew.

These insects help to balance tree densities and set the stage for fires and thereby the generation of new tree growth. And when forests are healthy and there are adequate supplies of water, the insects' effects are relatively low-scale and isolated. But under the right conditions—such as drought, unusually warm winters, or when there are dense stands of even-aged trees—the insects can cause large-scale tree mortality, turning whole mountainsides and valleys rust red.

That is what is happening in many mountainous areas in Colorado. And more and more our mountain communities find themselves in uncomfortable proximity to acres of dead trees, turned rust red by the insects and adding to their concerns about the danger of very severe wildfires.

All Coloradans were reminded of this earlier this month, when the Federal and State foresters reported that the beetle infestation first detected in 1996 grew by a half-million acres last year, bringing the total number of acres attacked by bark beetles to 1.5 million, and has spread further into Front Range counties east of the Continental Divide.

Last year, I introduced legislation to respond to this problem by, first, facilitating more rapid responses to the insect epidemic where that is needed to reduce the wildfire threats to our communities; and second, promoting research on ways to improve the health of our forest lands. That bill—H.R. 3072—was developed through broad consultation with many people in Colorado and discussions among our state's entire Colorado delegation. It is cosponsored by all my Colorado colleagues in the House, and Senators KEN SALAZAR and WAYNE ALLARD introduced identical legislation in the Senate. I intend to continue to work for enactment of its provisions, as a single measure or otherwise.

And that delegation measure would be supplemented in two different ways by the bills I am introducing today.

One bill focuses on steps to help our communities act to reduce the potential damages their residents could suffer as a result of wildfires. It is cosponsored by our colleague from California, Representative FILNER; I appreciate his support.

A House companion to legislation, S. 2390, introduced by Senator DIANE FEINSTEIN, this "Fire Safe Communities Act" would provide incentives for at-risk communities to adopt a new model Fire Safe ordinance that will set national standards in building codes, creation of "defensible space" around homes, and reduction of hazardous fuels. It also would authorize new Federal grants to help commu-

nities integrate fire-resisting aspects into local ordinances, and would authorize increased Federal reimbursement of firefighting costs to participating communities.

The other bill would amend the recently-enacted Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, P.L. 110-140, to allow material removed from additional forest lands to reduce hazardous fuels to be eligible for some incentives for use of renewable biomass to generate energy.

Title II of the new energy law puts new emphasis on developing biofuels that rely on additional sources of biomass, including agricultural wastes, municipal solid waste, and dedicated energy crops such as perennial grasses, fast-growing trees, and algae.

Accordingly, the new law requires an expansion of the 2005 law's renewable fuel standard so as to require 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel in motor fuels annually by 2022, of which 21 billion gallons must be "advanced biofuel," defined as biofuel produced from feedstocks other than corn starch and having 50 percent lower lifecycle emissions than petroleum fuels.

For purposes of title II, the new energy law defines the term "renewable fuel" as "fuel that is produced from renewable biomass and that is used to replace or reduce the quantity of fossil fuel present in a transportation fuel."

But its definition of "renewable biomass" does not include material removed from Federal or State forest lands in order to reduce wildfire risks, except to the extent that the removal occurs in the "immediate vicinity of buildings and other areas regularly occupied by people, or of public infrastructure, at risk from wildfire."

I think this definition is too narrow and would unnecessarily limit the potential incentive for private industry to assist in reducing the buildup of hazardous fuels that threaten forest-area communities in Colorado and other States.

So, the second bill I am introducing today would revise the definition of "renewable biomass" in that part of the new energy law to include biomass removed in connection with a hazardous-fuel reduction project from lands within the wildland-urban interface, as defined in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

Madam Speaker, since coming to Congress I have put a priority on reducing the wildfire risks to our communities. In 2000, with our then colleague, Representative Hefley, I introduced legislation to facilitate reducing the buildup of fuel in the parts of Colorado that the Forest Service, working with State and local partners, identified at greatest risk of fire—the so-called "red zones." Concepts from that legislation were included in the National Fire Plan developed by the Clinton Administration and were also incorporated into the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. As a Member of the Resources Committee, I had worked to develop the version of that legislation that the committee approved in 2002, and while I could not support the different version initially passed by the House in 2003, I voted for the revised version developed in conference with the Senate later that year—the version that President Bush signed into law.

Since then, in Colorado there has been very welcome progress in developing community wildfire protection plans and focusing fuel-reduction projects in the priority wildland-urban interface—which we sometimes call the "red

zone" areas—two important aspects of the new law. But the problem remains very serious, and both H.R. 3072 and the two additional bills I am introducing today would take important further steps to address it.

We cannot eradicate insects from our forests—nor should we, because insects are a natural part of forest ecosystems. Instead, we can and should act to reduce the wildfire threats to our communities—and their residents' lives and property—as well as to promote research on ways to improve the health of our forest lands.

That is the purpose of H.R. 3072, and it is also the purpose of the two bills I am introducing today. For the information of our colleagues, here are outlines of both bills:

#### FIRE SAFE COMMUNITY ACT

This bill, a House companion to S. 2390, would establish new incentives for communities at risk of wildfire to improve fire-prevention efforts. Key components include:

Creating a model ordinance for communities at risk of fire located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Bill will direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to create a model ordinance, in partnership with the U.S. Fire Administration, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The purpose of this model ordinance is to provide a baseline for communities to become "fire safe," including suggested water supply, construction materials and techniques, defensible space, vegetation management, and infrastructure standards;

Developing a new \$25 million grant program to assist local communities in implementing the activities and policies of the NIST model ordinance. To qualify for this grant program, communities must be located in a fire hazard area and take steps toward the implementation of the model ordinance. These grants, administered by FEMA, can be used to enforce local ordinances and codes, develop incentive programs to improve code compliance, educate local planners on fire resistant planning, zoning and home construction, as well as train local fire departments on emerging technologies such as GIS fire mapping;

Providing grants to States on a 50/50 cost share basis to create or update fire hazard maps. Authorizes \$15 million annually for States to develop or update statewide fire hazard maps which identify communities at risk of wildfire;

Establishing incentives for communities that decide to become more fire safe by changing the federal share of firefighting and emergency expenses reimbursed under FEMA's Fire Management Assistance Grants. Currently states and local communities can have 75 percent of their firefighting and emergency service expenses reimbursed by the federal government, if FEMA determines that a fire threatened a significant number of homes and structures. Under this bill, communities in fire hazard areas that adopt the new model ordinance would be eligible to have 90 percent of their firefighting and emergency service expenses reimbursed under the Fire Management Assistance Grants program;

Authorizing the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to offer grants to local communities for fire safe practices. The bill makes revisions to the authorization of the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to allow them to administer grants to local communities for model ordinance compliance and for responsible zoning and fire protection strategies. The U.S. Forest Service would administer \$35 million in fire-safe grants. The

Department of the Interior would administer \$15 million in these grants.

**WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION AND RENEWABLE BIOMASS UTILIZATION ACT**

This bill would revise the definition of “renewable biomass” in section 201 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 so as to facilitate and encourage the use of biomass removed from certain additional forest lands as an energy source, in order to reduce the risk of severe wildfires to communities, infrastructure, and water supplies.

Specifically, the bill would expand the current definition of “renewable biomass” to include biomass removed from lands within the wildland-urban interface in connection with an authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects.

The bill uses the definitions of “hazardous fuel reduction project” and “wildland-urban interface” that are used in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

That Act defines the term “wildland-urban interface” as including “an area within or adjacent to an at-risk community that is identified ... in a community wildfire protection plan” or, with regard to a community that has not developed a community wildfire protection plan, lands within a specified distance from the community’s boundary (a distance that can vary depending on the presence of steep slopes or other geographic features) as well as areas adjacent to an evacuation route for an at-risk community that require hazardous fuel reduction to provide safer evacuation from an at-risk community.

These definitions provide greater specificity than the term “immediate vicinity” now used in this part of the new energy law, and will broaden the scope of its applicability. I supported enactment of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, and I think it is appropriate to follow its example in this respect.

**RECOGNIZING COREY DYLAN JEPSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Corey Dylan Jepson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Corey has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. He has held several leadership positions in the troop including Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader. Not only has Corey had many accomplishments within his troop, but he has also earned the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Corey Dylan Jepson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**HONORING VERIDIAN HOMES’ BUILDER OF THE YEAR 2008 AWARD**

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Veridian Homes for receiving Professional Builder magazine’s Builder of the Year for 2008, one of the homebuilding industry’s most prestigious and coveted awards. This honor not only demonstrates a unique level of innovation but also a vigorous dedication to quality and customer service.

As the largest residential builder in the State of Wisconsin, Veridian builds nearly 500 homes and condominiums each year. This level of productivity has earned it a market share of over 30 percent while offering a variety in price, style, and size. In only 4 short years, Veridian Homes has claimed the spotlight as an industry leader despite the uncertainties presented by the current market.

Co-founders David Simon and Jeff Rosenberg have successfully combined the conventional wisdom of community development with a creative blend of environmentally conscious business practices and quality improvement strategies. All of Veridian’s homes and condominiums meet Green Built Home and Energy Star program standards. The company has also built six LEED-certified homes and initiated its own recycling program, in addition to actively experimenting with more resource and material-efficient processes.

Even more impressive, though, is their attention to partnership and accountability. Simon and Rosenberg have consistently demanded feedback from their employees, trade partners, and customers alike to ensure a level of continuous development. This customer and product-first approach leaves no aspect of quality improvement unattended.

To the truest extent, Veridian Homes has made Wisconsin a great place to live. I am proud to have such an extraordinary innovator and trendsetter right here in Dane County. I wish Veridian Homes many more years of success as a model for excellence and customer satisfaction.

**CONGRATULATING DR. HAN SEUNG-SOO ON HIS NOMINATION AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to my friend, Dr. Han Seung-soo, on his nomination as the next Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea by President-Elect Lee Myung-Bak.

Dr. Han, currently serving as Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Climate Change, has had a long and distinguished career in public service. He has previously served as South Korea’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economy, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Minister of Trade and Industry, Ambassador to the

United States, and Chief of Staff to the President of the Republic of Korea. He served three terms in the South Korean National Assembly and thus has been, like us, a member of his country’s legislature.

Moreover, in recognition of his exemplary record as a diplomat, Dr. Han was also elected President of the 56th session of the UN General Assembly in 2001. He was to be officially elected to the presidency on the fateful morning of September 11, 2001 but was, instead, sworn in on the next day. His leadership was instrumental in the passage of a resolution by the UN General Assembly session denouncing the terrorist attacks. He wrote about these experiences in his new book entitled “Beyond the Shadow of 9–11: A Year at the United Nations General Assembly.” He recently sent me a signed copy of his memoirs, which I greatly appreciate.

Over the years, Dr. Han and I have crossed paths on more than one occasion due to our mutual interest in international environmental policy and, in particular, the issues surrounding global climate change. As chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Global Environment, I have always been personally impressed by Dr. Han’s depth and breadth of knowledge, his ability to listen to people with different—and sometimes technically complex—ideas, and his capacity for synthesizing the best of available knowledge for eventual decisionmaking.

Last November, speaking in Bangkok at the Committee on Managing Globalization of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP, Dr. Han noted the need for rapid economic growth in Asia and the Pacific—home to two-thirds of the world’s poor. However, he pointed out, actions on climate change could be compatible with economic growth, saying: “We can turn the crisis of climate change into a new economic opportunity.”

The choice of Dr. Han Seung-soo to be Prime Minister by President-Elect Lee Myung-Bak provides excellent evidence that the U.S.-Korea alliance partnership will continue to further consolidate and deepen under their leadership. During Dr. Han’s tenures as both the Republic of Korea’s Foreign Minister and Ambassador to the United States, he cultivated many friends and admirers in Washington.

Let me also take this opportunity to say that I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the resolution congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election to the presidency of the Republic of Korea. I look forward to working with his incoming administration on the important challenges facing the region, especially peace and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula.

Madam Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in offering their own congratulations to Dr. Han Seung-soo and wish him well in his new responsibilities.

**HONORING COACH JIM ALGEO**

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Coach Jim Algeo on celebrating his 40th anniversary as



Coach of the Lansdale Catholic High School football team. I am proud that such a dedicated and honorable man has served the constituents of my district for the past four decades.

For the past 40 years, Coach Jim Alego has been a teacher and head football coach at Lansdale Catholic High School. Through far more than football plays and academics, Coach Alego has also taken great pride in preparing the young men on his team for life by teaching them to live by the admirable motto: "Faith, Family, and Football."

Coach Alego's well-rounded approach mentoring players has enabled Lansdale Catholic to achieve a winning record with five PAC-10 titles and six District 1 crowns during his tenure as head coach. Coach Alego has been recognized with numerous distinctions and awards, including the Pennsylvania State Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame, Associated Press PA Class AA Coach of the Year and the Maxwell Football Club Lifetime Achievement Award. Together, these inspired young men and their determined coach were able to bring home the PIAA AA State Championship in 2004.

Coach Alego lives his personal life with the same commitment as his life on the field, sharing the past 48 years with the Crusaders' biggest cheerleader, Mickey Alego. Together Jim and Mickey have raised nine children, and are the proud grandparents of 16 loving grandkids.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Coach Jim Alego's 40th anniversary milestone and in wishing him many more years of enriching the lives of those around him. In the many roles Coach Alego has been blessed to fulfill in his life, he has set an example for all of us to follow

#### WILD MONONGAHELA: A NATIONAL LEGACY FOR WEST VIRGINIA'S SPECIAL PLACES

#### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce legislation to designate additional areas as wilderness within the Monongahela National Forest in our State of West Virginia. Joining me in this initiative are my West Virginia colleagues Representatives SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO and ALAN MOLLOHAN.

Our senior Senator, ROBERT C. BYRD, is fond of noting that: "West Virginia is one of the most beautiful and unique places. It is the most southern of the northern and the most northern of the southern; the most eastern of the western and the most western of the eastern. It is where the East says good morning to the West, and where Yankee Doodle and Dixie kiss each other good night."

Indeed, West Virginia is a most beautiful and unique place. And with the introduction of our legislation, "Wild Monongahela: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places," we are striving to keep it that way.

This is about the heart and soul of West Virginia. Our southern mountains have been yielding their coal for generations and our northern ridge lines are being targeted by the merchants of wind power. More development is coming, and, in most cases, it is welcomed.

But as West Virginians we are intimately connected to our land. Our roots are planted deep in our misty hollers and our majestic mountains. We know that we will be judged by future generations on our stewardship of this land that is West Virginia. And so I believe that it is of paramount importance that we, once again, set aside some of God's handiwork in our forests by preserving these Federal lands in their pristine state.

We hunt these woods; we fish these streams. These few areas that we are proposing to conserve in their natural state represent a significant national resource. But more importantly to us, they constitute a fundamental right of West Virginians to retain a vital link to our heritage, and to know that, forever more, these lands will remain in their natural state as our Creator forged them. We cherish this as nothing less and nothing more than our birthright as West Virginians.

By way of background, the Monongahela National Forest is comprised of over 919,000 acres of Federal land in 10 counties of the eastern portion of West Virginia. The forest is a major recreational resource for West Virginians as well as people from neighboring States, hosting approximately 3 million visitors annually. Currently, the forest has five federally designated wilderness areas comprising 78,041 acres: Otter Creek, Dolly Sods, Laurel Fork North and South, and the Cranberry Wilderness.

As part of the revision of the Forest Plan completed in 2006, 18 roadless areas were inventoried and evaluated for their wilderness potential. As a result of this process, the West Virginia Delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives is proposing to designate seven of the evaluated areas as wilderness. Totalling 47,128 acres, three of the areas are additions to existing wilderness: the Cranberry Expansion in Webster and Pocahontas Counties, the Dolly Sods Expansion in Tucker County and the Dry Fork Expansion in Tucker County to the Otter Creek Wilderness. The other four are proposed new wilderness areas: Big Draft in Greenbrier County, Cheat Mountain in Randolph County, Roaring Plains West in Pendleton and Randolph Counties and Spice Run in Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties.

Under the new Land and Resource Management Plan for the Monongahela National Forest, all seven areas are now being managed essentially as wilderness. Cheat Mountain, the Cranberry Expansion, the Dry Fork addition to Otter Creek Wilderness and Roaring Plains West are under Management Prescription 5.1, Recommended Wilderness. Meanwhile, the Big Draft area, the Dolly Sods Expansion and the Spice Run area are under Management Prescription 6.2, Backcountry Recreation. This management prescription emphasizes a non-motorized setting with a largely natural environment and a lack of management-related disturbance.

Before I describe the special attributes of the seven areas contained in our legislation, I would like to note the support this initiative has among working men and women in West Virginia. I am proud that the West Virginia AFL-CIO passed a resolution last October in support of additional wilderness in the Monongahela National Forest. Their resolution states that "wilderness forest areas and the outdoor recreation, hunting and fishing they provide improve the quality of life for all West Virginians." The resolution further notes that

"protected wilderness helps diversify and stabilize economies by attracting and retaining business, residents, and a local workforce, in addition to generating travel and tourism, one of the fastest growing sectors of West Virginia."

I am also proud that people of faith in West Virginia support additional wilderness. The Reverend Dennis Sparks, executive director of the West Virginia Council of Churches, wrote to me as follows: "An area of federal land belonging to all Americans, the Monongahela National Forest can uniquely provide opportunities for reflection and inspiration that are becoming ever scarcer in our rapidly modernizing and developing world. We believe that carefully protecting this wonderful national forest and its wilderness-quality lands not only has a sound Biblical basis, but is also the best and most practical course of action for safeguarding the world which we will pass along to our children."

Similarly, Bob Marshall, D.V.M., wrote: "Like me, you were probably raised by parents who took you to church, where you learned many of the morals and ethics that guide your decisions today. I was taught to 'Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself.' These words still speak to me today, and have led me to believe that West Virginia needs to preserve as much of our wild lands as possible, through the Wilderness proposal."

This proposal also enjoys the support of various West Virginia chapters of Trout Unlimited. The vice president of the Mountaineer Chapter, Randy Kesling, wrote to me as follows: "National Forest Wilderness Areas are the tap-roots into the landscape of our beginnings—the original forest. The U.S. Forest Service itself calls them 'ecological anchors in a fragile landscape.' Today we are at another crossroad in the natural history of this great forest. This is in every sense a watershed moment—to set this fragile forest on the path to recovery." He concluded: "The Mountaineer Chapter of Trout Unlimited believes that Wilderness Designation provides the best path to that recovery."

Mr. Don Gasper, who worked for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources for many years, and who is a highly respected fish biologist, wrote: "You lawmakers in Congress have an important opportunity right now to permanently protect some of the most special remaining wild places in the Monongahela National Forest."

Many communities across West Virginia have registered their support for wilderness. The Honorable John Manchester, the mayor of the City of Lewisburg in Greenbrier County, and that city's Council, passed a resolution which in part states: "wilderness forest areas encompass the development of rural communities as people are attracted to, or stay in, places that are clean, beautiful and where they have ample opportunities to connect with nature. . . ."

The Honorable Martin Saffer, a Pocahontas County Commissioner, wrote: "I encourage you to take quick action to introduce legislation to protect some of our most special landscapes. This is truly a watershed moment. The time is now."

In addition, the Fayette County Commission wrote in support, stating: "Wildlands in the National Forest enhance our area's natural resource based tourism economy, increase the

quality of life for Fayette County residents, protect our hunting and fishing lands, clean air, clean water, and protect the headwaters of some of Fayette County's rivers from disturbance, thus reducing the threats from flooding."

The Greenbrier County Convention and Visitors Bureau wrote to me and specifically requested the inclusion of the Big Draft and Spice Run areas as wilderness. They noted: "From the luxury of The Greenbrier Resort to the primitive Monongahela National Forest, visitors can choose their own unique experience while visiting Greenbrier County."

The Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau has also weighed in, stating: "We feel that designating additional wilderness areas will increase the strong economic base that outdoor recreation in Pocahontas County relies on. Benefits associated with designated wilderness are far reaching for the people of West Virginia, our wildlife populations and the land itself. Protecting our last few remaining wilderness areas will ensure that present and future generations can use and enjoy parts of the forest in their natural state."

Following is a brief description of the seven areas the West Virginia Delegation propose to be designated as wilderness—

**Big Draft:** This 5,242-acre area in the southern tip of the forest is located about 5 miles from White Sulphur Springs, the home of the famed Greenbrier Resort. According to the Forest Service evaluation of the area, the primary vegetative type is oak and hickory with pockets of hemlock and white pine as well as black hickory and sassafras. The evaluation makes note of the area's "natural untrammelled appearance, and natural ecological processes that are the primary factors affecting the area." Trout and small-mouth bass fishing is considered excellent. The area has also been popular for wilderness quality white-water trips down Anthony Creek, and the trout and rock bass fishing is excellent.

**Cheat Mountain:** Comprised of 7,955 acres, the area ranges in elevation from 3,000 to 3,800 feet and is a relatively flat forested plateau. The area is dissected by six streams flowing through rugged terrain dropping steeply to the river. According to the Forest Service evaluation, the vegetation consists of northern hardwood stands with some red spruce. It has a "natural untrammelled appearance" and "the opportunity to experience remoteness is good." Special features of the area include the High Falls of the Cheat, which is a major waterfall, and a favorite destination for hikers and excursion train visitors. Cheat Mountain is a favorite of hunters and anglers.

**Cranberry Expansion:** A proposed 12,032-acre addition to the highly popular Cranberry Wilderness, the expansion is located between the Williams River on the north and the Cranberry River on the south and west. According to the Forest Service evaluation, "both natural integrity and appearance are considered high over much of the area . . ." It contains an excellent trail system and is held in high esteem by hunters, anglers and hikers. The combination of the Cranberry Wilderness, Cranberry Backcountry and Cranberry Expansion would create the largest area of non-motorized recreational opportunities in West Virginia—a vast silent forest primeval.

**Dolly Sods Expansion:** Another well-known and popular wilderness area, Dolly Sods, is proposed to be expanded by 7,215 acres to the north. Most of the area is a rolling plateau

of over 3,800 feet in elevation. The Allegheny Front drops 2,200 feet on the east, just outside the proposed wilderness boundary. According to the Forest Service evaluation, "the bog and heath eco-types are more typical of what one would expect to find in Maine or southern Canada rather than West Virginia." Views west from Cabin Mountain across the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge are outstanding.

**Dry Fork Expansion:** This small 740-acre proposed expansion of the Otter Creek Wilderness area has a high natural integrity and appearance and is dominated by spruce at its higher elevations with a mixture of northern hardwoods. This area occupies the northern and eastern flanks of McGowan Mountain leading down to the Dry Fork of the Cheat River. It provides much of the scenic view for this popular river, which contains excellent whitewater recreation opportunities and trout fishing.

**Roaring Plains West:** This 6,820-acre area located southwest of Dolly Sods ranges in elevation from 3,700 feet to over 4,700 feet and is, according to the Forest Service evaluation, minimally affected by outside forces. The Roaring Plains and Flatrock Plains areas encompassed by the proposed wilderness comprise the highest plateaus in the eastern United States. They are part of the geologic backbone of West Virginia called the Allegheny Front. The evaluation also notes it is remote backcountry, providing a good opportunity for solitude. Special features include an area known as Mt. Porte Crayon, with exceptional views.

**Spice Run:** A proposed 7,124-acre new wilderness, this area rises from the Greenbrier River on its western boundary and is an extremely remote place primarily accessible from the river. There are no system trails within the area. The elevation ranges from 2,000 feet along the Greenbrier River to 3,284 feet on the top of Slab Camp Mountain. Spice Run, along with Davy Run and Kincaid Run, cut steep hollows which delineate the terrain. Spice Run is one of the most remote places in the State and provides excellent opportunities for solitude and backcountry recreation.

In conclusion, I thank my colleagues in the West Virginia Delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives in joining with me to introduce this bill, "Wild Monongahela: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places."

MR. THIERRY PORTÉ, NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-U.S. FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I want to join my colleague, Representative JIM McDERMOTT, in congratulating Mr. Thierry Porté on his appointment as the new chairman of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. He will also serve as chairman of the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange, known as CULCON.

The Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission is an independent Federal agency that provides support, primarily through grants, to Americans to better understand and meet the chal-

lenges of the U.S.-Japan relationship. The commission consists of both private and certain designated public officials, and I am pleased to serve as one of two commissioners appointed from the House.

Mr. Porté was nominated to join the commission and serve as chairman last year with overwhelming support from commission members, and his appointment was recently approved by the White House.

His long and very direct experience in Japan and U.S.-Japan issues will serve the commission and CULCON well as we work to build greater understanding and strengthen ties between our two countries through the funding of educational, cultural, and academic programs. Mr. Porté has vast experience in the financial services industry and currently is the president and CEO of Shinsei Bank Limited.

He also is a member of the board of directors and chairman of the Finance Committee of the American School in Japan. Previously, he served as vice president and governor of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, and in 2002–2003, Mr. Porté was a member of the Invest Japan Forum, which provided recommendations on the promotion of foreign direct investment in Japan to Prime Minister Koizumi.

But his interest in Japan extends beyond the financial markets—he is knowledgeable in Japanese culture and the arts as well, and he will bring a unique perspective to our efforts.

It is a privilege to have Mr. Porté serve as our chairman. I know he has the right background, skills and energy to continue to build on the important work of the commission.

CONGRATULATING MR. THIERRY PORTÉ FOR HIS APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-U.S. FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Mr. Thierry Porté for his recent appointment as the new Chairman of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (JUSFC) and the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON).

Mr. Porté, who is the President and CEO of Shinsei Bank, Ltd. has a long and established history as an advocate for exchanges of ideas and culture between the U.S. and Japan. His distinguished experience in the business community as the first American to head a major Japanese bank combined with his work as Chairman of the U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation's Tokyo Advisory Board in promoting better educational and cultural relations between the two countries make him uniquely qualified for this position.

As a member of the JUSFC, which was established as an independent Federal agency by Congress in 1975 to administer a trust fund and makes grant to promote scholarly, cultural and public affairs activities between Japan and the U.S., I look forward to working with Mr. Porté over the next few years on coordinating the goals of the Commission and moving the bilateral relationship forward.

HONORING ALEXANDRA  
MCGREGOR

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, two years ago I met a young high school student who had a brilliant and patriotic idea. Alexandra McGregor, from Waterford, Michigan, set out to establish a "Support the Troops Day" and, for the third year in a row, I am introducing a resolution inspired by Alexandra.

Alexandra's extraordinary effort started as a grassroots campaign to encourage people to take a moment and reflect on the service and sacrifice of those currently in our military. What began as a small effort by a local high school student has turned into a nation-wide event honoring our active duty military men and women.

Every year, Americans participate in numerous patriotic celebrations; from past Presidents to our veterans. But never do we honor our active-duty military men and women who are protecting our freedom today. With inspiration from Alexandra, my resolution encourages Americans to participate in a moment of silence on March 26th to reflect on the sacrifice of those who are serving this country both at home and abroad.

Madam Speaker, "Support the Troops Day" is a yearly celebration in Oakland County, Michigan and I come to the floor today to reintroduce the resolution marking March 26th as "Support the Troops Day." Both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed similar resolutions two years ago and I hope this Congress will actively show its support for our service members by passing this resolution.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, due to flight delays in traveling from my congressional district to Washington DC, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 23 and 24. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the immeasurable community contributions of Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida after 80 years of devoted service.

In 1928, the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity recognized the growing need for the Lord's work with the poor and disadvantaged and traveled to Pensacola,

Florida to form the Bureau of Catholic Charities. The group aided in a variety of ministries such as social services, nursing, and education. Catholic Charities has operated out of a responsibility "to answer Christ's call to help those in need," regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion. Over 90 percent of those they have served are not Catholic.

Ten years earlier, this same congregation of Roman Catholic sisters founded in Holy Trinity, Alabama, traveled to Pensacola to begin their ministries at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. However, these women were faced with unfortunate conditions that jeopardized their health, and it proved impossible to carry out their mission at that time. While their mission was delayed, they soon returned and were able to administer their "dynamic and effective system for bringing about a better society."

Catholic Charities has been a devoted caretaker of the region since its inception, with continuous growth as they have expanded their services to include all charity work within the Pensacola area and have opened several offices to better serve members of the community. They have been instrumental in creating a kindhearted and compassionate environment in Northwest Florida.

This remarkable organization has also implemented programs to assist with disaster recovery, refugee resettlement, immigration processes, and child placement to help build strong, loving families. Catholic Charities' dedication and vision has touched the lives of countless people and will forever be appreciated by generations to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to a generous group that has served as an inspiration to us all. I am proud to honor Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida for their deep sense of personal service to the Lord's work for so many years.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. GLENN "OMODIENDE" REITZ

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. BRADY of Philadelphia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and accomplishments of Mr. Glenn "Omodiende" Reitz. Glenn Reitz was a scholar, teacher, and socio-political activist, whose life and life's work is a testament of one's ability to triumph over adversity, and transcend race, class, and gender in order to actualize a more humanist conception of community. His African name "Omodiende" means "the child returns"; Glenn's zealous approach to life befits his given name.

Glenn was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin on April 7, 1964. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1982 to 1994 when he was medically retired. He then enrolled at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree and a master of arts degree in African American Studies. Given his ultimate search for truth, his love of knowledge, and his innovative and ingenious nature, it is no surprise that at the time of his death, Mr. Reitz was in the process of pursuing a PhD in African American Studies.

Glenn lived with HIV/AIDS for over 18 years, and in that time created a legacy that can never be replicated. Rejecting his physical condition as a debilitating force, Glenn developed his mind in ways that placed him in a rare class of human beings who do not seek knowledge just for knowledge's sake, but to transcend normal social constructs of race and gender, to transform status quo, and to positively alter our communities. It goes without saying that Glenn was not a genius for genius' sake.

Combining his ontology with social activism made Glenn a pillar in his Philadelphia Community. I know that he would find my submission of remarks to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in his honor quite ironic and entertaining given the fact that he was very critical of government and many government policies. Even though I know he would debate (and possibly contest) this assertion, I believe that Glenn was the ultimate example of a true American precisely because he challenged and critiqued our system and policy of governance; he truly believed that status quo was never acceptable; that things could always be improved. Glenn's social philanthropy is evidence of his convictions. He worked with the City to develop a safe playground for his North Philadelphia neighborhood, worked with prison programs to directly address the needs of those who are incarcerated, mentored countless young people, taught and participated in many community educational programs on HIV/AIDS, and taught a class on Death and Dying. In 43 brief years, he accomplished what many never achieve in a lifetime.

Glenn departed this life on December 14, 2007 and will be sorely missed by his family, friends, loved ones, and community. His phenomenal human spirit should be an inspiration to us all.

#### RECOGNIZING JAMES CLIFFORD SEWARD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Clifford Seward, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. He has earned many awards and has held many leadership positions including librarian, historian and assistant patrol leader. Not only has James had many accomplishments within his troop but he has also earned the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Clifford Seward for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS GORRIE  
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
JOHNSON & JOHNSON

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Thomas Gorrie, Johnson & Johnson's Corporate Vice President for Government Affairs & Policy on his retirement from the company.

Johnson & Johnson has a long history as a New Jersey-based company, starting as it did making bandages and emerging over the years to become the world's largest health-care company. I am proud to represent many thousands of Johnson & Johnson's employees, including Dr. Gorrie, who is also a friend and neighbor. He has informed me of his plan to retire from Johnson & Johnson on March 1, 2008 after a productive 35 years of service, and I want to take a moment today to pay tribute to his lifetime of service and accomplishments.

My colleagues here in the House may be familiar with Dr. Gorrie's work, even if they have not personally met him. Under his leadership he brought Johnson & Johnson to Congress by establishing the Johnson & Johnson Day on the Hill, where new pharmaceuticals, breakthrough technology and medical devices are on display for Members and staff to learn about and in the case of the iBOT, a power wheelchair, take it out for a spin.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Dr. Gorrie received his bachelor of arts degree from Rutgers University and his masters and doctorate degrees in chemistry from Princeton University.

After completion of post-doctoral studies at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Dr. Gorrie began his career with Johnson & Johnson in 1972 as a senior research scientist in the medical device area. He subsequently held positions of increasing responsibility in marketing, sales, and general management, including Company Group Chairman and Worldwide Franchise Chairman of Johnson & Johnson Medical, Inc., and member of the Consumer Pharmaceuticals and Professional Operating Group. He then worked with the Johnson & Johnson Development Corporation before assuming his current position as world-wide head of government affairs and policy in 1999.

Tom is an active member of his community and currently serves on numerous non-profit boards. He is Chair of the Duke University Health System, a member of the Board of Directors of Duke University, and a Trustee Emeritus of the Board for the Hun School of Princeton. He is a member of the Board of the National Committee for U.S.-China Relations and Vice Chair of the China Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment (CAEFI). Finally, he is an adjunct professor at one of our state's finest educational facilities, the Rutgers Business School.

The way that Dr. Gorrie imbues all of his work with admirable ethics is reflected in this book he edited a few years ago, "Ethics and the Pharmaceutical Industry." For the book Dr. Gorrie brought together representatives of industry, government, NGOs, and leading thinkers in medicine, health ethics and economics

to propose solutions and safeguards to the many ethical challenges facing the pharmaceutical industry. The book touched on such topics as the ethical demands and economic constraints of drug research, the right of patients to participate in clinical trials, the regulation of prescription drugs and intellectual property rights. I was pleased to write a chapter on how government should regulate stem-cell research. As Congress continues to debate many of the issues the book explores, I recommend its scholarship to my colleagues.

Madam Speaker, Johnson & Johnson is one of America's leading and most innovative pharmaceutical, biotech, medical device and consumer healthcare companies. I commend Dr. Gorrie's service at Johnson & Johnson. I know we have all benefited from Dr. Gorrie's leadership during the past 35 years, and as he continues to increase his civic participation, many will continue to benefit from Tom's vision and talents.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. RONEY  
CHEERS

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Roney Cheers of Shallotte, North Carolina, who recently passed away. The life of Mr. Cheers was diverse in experience and rich in success. The interests and endeavors of Mr. Cheers varied extensively. However, the common thread that wove all of his passions together was his devotion to and pride for his hometown of Shallotte.

Mr. Cheers was elected mayor of Shallotte at the age of 26, the youngest in the State of North Carolina at the time, and would return to the office again years later for nearly a decade. He also served as alderman for the town of Shallotte, first in 1947 and again from 1991 to 1999. Mr. Cheers would go on to serve his State as a justice of the peace as well as magistrate. A man with an expansive vision for the future, he was instrumental in helping establish the weekly publication that currently serves many of the coastal communities in North Carolina, The Brunswick Beacon.

Throughout his life, Mr. Cheers was also active in the non-political aspects of his community, for example, serving as chairman of the Shallotte Centennial Committee in 1998 and spearheading efforts to mark the town's 100th anniversary and celebrate its rich history. As Co-Chairman and Co-Founder of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I appreciate his dedication to the young athletes of his community. Through his work as a volunteer referee and umpire, Mr. Cheers clearly recognized the importance of serving as a positive role model and mentor for the next generation.

Individuals like Mr. Cheers serve as powerful inspirations for what can be accomplished with limitless energy and persistent drive. As a lifelong servant to the town of Shallotte as well as one of its most devoted visionaries, Mr. Cheers never forgot the traditions of the small town he grew up in while working simultaneously towards its growth and progress. May we never forget and always be grateful for the contributions and service of Mr. Cheers.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of the Borough of Roseland, County of Essex, New Jersey, as they commemorate the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of their community.

In 1908, the residents of the Roseland Community, displeased with the services they were receiving, took action to separate themselves and their town from the Township of Livingston. During this time, many communities throughout the State of New Jersey decided to separate from larger townships and the time was right for the residents of Roseland to make a change.

The completion of the Morristown and Erie Railroads in 1904-1905 had made it possible for residents of Roseland to work in neighboring cities, while enjoying life in the country. During this time, the Borough purchased water supply lines and installed electric home and street lighting which further enhanced life in Roseland. And by the 1920s, Henry Ford's methods of mass production of the automobile changed the development of Roseland forever.

After World War I, new houses went up, many residents now owned cars and Roseland flourished. At this time, the Borough outgrew its country-style living and joined the more urban society we know today. The Great Depression and World War II brought with them some hard times for the people of Roseland, but the residents proved that as a community they could survive. When called to serve their country, all residents accepted their responsibilities, in both military and civilian service, and did their part. After victory, the pride felt all over the Nation was especially strong in Roseland.

In the following decades, Roseland's development continued. During this time, great improvements in community services and facilities were made. Roseland is now thriving with a prosperous business and corporate center, excellent schools, recreational facilities and a strong sense of community.

Madam Speaker, for the past 100 years, the Borough of Roseland has prospered as a community and continues to flourish today. By all accounts, it will continue to thrive in the future, and I ask you, Madam Speaker, and my colleagues to congratulate all residents of Roseland on this special 100th anniversary year.

HONORING CHIEF GARY WESTPHAL FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding citizen and public servant, Chief Gary Westphal, in honor of his retirement from 35 years of service at the Mesquite Police Department.

In 1972, Chief Westphal started his service as a jailer and was promoted through the ranks until 2002, when he became Chief of Police for the Mesquite Police Department.

Chief Westphal pioneered several student, anti-drug campaigns such as "Slama Bama Jama," "What If," and the "Cheese Anti-drug Initiative." Esteemed by his community and peers, Chief Westphal was named "Hometown Hero" by Town East Mall and "Top Cop" 2006 by the Texas Police Chiefs Association.

In addition to faithfully serving his community, Chief Westphal is a husband to Susan, a father of three children, and a grandfather.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Chief Gary Westphal for his courage in protecting and serving the citizens of Mesquite.

HONORING DR. IRA SARISON

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Ira Sarison, a constituent and friend of mine from Boynton Beach, who passed away unexpectedly on January 11, 2008 while traveling in Argentina.

Dr. Sarison was a native of the Bronx, New York, and had a distinguished career as an educator, last serving as Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Oceanside, New York. Following his retirement in 1988, he relocated to Florida where he established a successful elder care management practice in my congressional district. He also served as the founding past president of the Democratic Club of Greater Boynton Beach. Dr. Sarison will best be remembered for his life-long passion for and commitment to education and for his tireless work helping those who needed it most in his community.

Ira Sarison is survived by his wife, Rivalee, his children Lynn and Robert, his sister and grandchildren, his extended family, and a large circle of friends, of which I am honored to be a part.

Everyone who knew Ira Sarison loved him dearly, and he will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE STATE OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the State of Michigan school board members in observance of School Board Recognition Month for their service and unwavering commitment to our children and our schools.

The Michigan Association of School Boards was founded in 1949 to provide a united voice for the thousands of men and women who champion the cause of public education as board members. Michigan's 4,100 school board members contribute hundreds of hours each year leading their districts by adopting policies, hiring superior personnel and administrators, and listening to staff, parent and stu-

dent concerns. Through their tireless motivation and many contributions, school board members have distinguished themselves as compassionate individuals who are deeply committed to educating our children. These members have sought to ensure every child is given the opportunity to learn and succeed. Also, their many contributions serve as a fine example to inspire others.

The Michigan Association of School Boards launched the National School Board Recognition program in Michigan in 1989, in which only five states chose to celebrate this special month. Subsequently, the National School Board Association's Delegate Assembly resolved to initiate National School Board Recognition Month in 1995. Other States followed suit by annually recognizing their local school board members' service and commitment to their children and schools. January 2008 marks the annual observance of this year's School Board Recognition Month. This year's theme is "School Boards Lead Strong." This theme reflects school board members' combined commitment to leadership and accountability in ensuring all children succeed.

Madam Speaker, for 59 years, Michigan state school board members have exemplified civic duty by making decisions which fundamentally enrich the quality of education for over 1.7 million Michigan students. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these school board members upon observance of School Board Recognition Month; and recognizing their years of loyal commitment to education which has, undoubtedly, helped to create exceptional scholars and citizens.

HONORING DR. DAVID DENNIS DUNN

**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. David Dennis Dunn for his dedication to his country, exemplary service during World War II and contributions to the medical field and the Erie, Pennsylvania community. This honorable citizen will soon celebrate his 95th birthday on February 6, 2008.

WW II is filled with stories of heroism, selflessness, patriotism and a relentless desire to secure a future for the United States of America and the international community. Brave men left their ordinary lives in order to serve a cause greater than themselves. Dr. Dunn was among those great men to make that sacrifice.

Contributing his medical skills to that noble cause, Dr. Dunn served more than four years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, including overseas duty in Iceland, England, Ireland, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Austria. He attained the rank of Captain serving in the 5th Medical Battalion, 5th Infantry Division and later served in the 30th Field Hospital. Dr. Dunn was awarded five Battlestars and the Bronze Star among a variety of other medals of commendations for his service.

Dr. Dunn pursued a 50 year career in General Surgery, starting as an instructor at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, completing a residency in surgery at the

Lankenau Hospital in Philadelphia and practicing general surgery at Hamot Hospital in Erie. He reached the pinnacle of his remarkable medical career when he was ultimately appointed Chief of Surgery at Hamot and later became a traveling guest lecturer at the highly esteemed Harvard University.

Not only has Dr. Dunn contributed to society professionally, but he also has had a great impact through his volunteer efforts in the Erie community of Pennsylvania's 3rd district. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and has served on the boards of multiple community organizations, notably as Founder and Board member of Hospice of Metropolitan Erie. He also was actively involved in Meals for Wheels, the Erie Community Foundation and the Erie Cemetery Association.

I am often reminded that America has been blessed with great people and leaders; Americans who rose to the challenge when their country was in need. I take great pride in representing a district with such honorable men in history.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. Dunn for his admirable service to our country. His lifetime of achievements in the medical field and the community is certainly deserving of recognition, celebration and a great deal of gratitude.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY COMPONENT PRIVACY OFFICER ACT OF 2008

**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Department of Homeland Security Component Privacy Officer Act of 2008.

In the Homeland Security Act of 2002 Congress created within the Department of Homeland Security a Chief Privacy Officer.

The Privacy Officer is responsible for ensuring that an individual's privacy rights are not infringed upon by the creation of Department of Homeland Security policies and programs.

The DHS Chief Privacy Officer is unique within the structure of the Federal government insofar as it is a statutory position that is intended to be involved at all levels of the Department's activities—from policy formation to its implementation.

However, time has shown that the Chief Privacy Officer needs help in achieving this goal.

This bill will create Privacy Officers that will report directly to the Chief Privacy Officer in the following DHS Components: TSA, the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, CBP, ICE, FEMA, the Coast Guard, the Science and Technology Directorate, the Intelligence and Analysis Directorate, and the National Protections and Programs Directorate.

The level of public confidence and trust in the Department's handling of privacy matters remains abysmally low.

Moreover, there is also a major concern regarding the Privacy Office's involvement at the outset of the policymaking process, as intended by Congress.

This was made clear in testimony before the Committee on Homeland Security when it was

revealed that the Privacy Officer was not brought into the development of a new National Applications Office, NAO, that would monitor the use of spy satellites for homeland security purposes, until almost 2 years after the development stage began.

Bringing in the Privacy Office at the 11th hour is not the proper way to blend in privacy protections and appropriate safeguards before policies and programs are underway.

Placing Privacy Officers in the component agencies that make up the Department of Homeland Security is the first step to ensuring that privacy protections are in place at the beginning of the process.

The Component agencies are the pulse of the Homeland Security Department. Most homeland security efforts stem from Component Agency actions.

Privacy Officers need to be where the action is happening, not waiting for a phone call after decisions have already been made.

Under the current structure, the Privacy Office has to rely on Component Agencies for information concerning programs and policies that impact privacy rights. Sometimes this happens; sometimes it does not.

When it does not happen, the risk is clear:

Recently, the Department's Inspector General determined that the Science & Technology Directorate's ADVISE program should be cancelled due to privacy concerns.

This determination was made after the Department spent \$42 million on the program.

It was also determined that the Chief Privacy Office was not brought into the process until almost 2 years after the system had been deployed.

This bill would put a Privacy Officer in the Science & Technology Directorate.

Moreover, the Automated Targeting System, which is a Customs & Border Protection program, has been heavily criticized by privacy advocates, and after two separate requests for public comments, the future of this program remains unclear. Again, this was a program that had operated for some time in the dark without proper safeguards and departmental oversight.

Pursuant to this bill, CBP would get a Privacy Officer as well.

Quite frankly, there has been a litany of DHS programs that have been cancelled, delayed, or discontinued due to privacy concerns. Almost all of these were the products of Department Component Agencies that do not have a Privacy Officer within their ranks.

Additionally, the DHS Privacy Officer is responsible for conducting Privacy Impact Assessments on DHS programs and policies affecting privacy.

There are currently over 150 Privacy Impact Assessments that need to be completed. To put this number in perspective, in all of 2006, the Privacy Office only published 25.

This bill will help in decreasing that overload.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation that is critical to not only the privacy rights but the security of our country as well.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE ROBIN DANIELSON ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, Robin Danielson's two daughters will never forget the tragic day in Speaker, 1998 when their mother died at the age of 44. Nor will they forget the preventable illness that killed her.

Like thousands of others, Robin Danielson was the victim of Toxic Shock Syndrome, TSS, a rare but potentially life-threatening illness that is often linked to high-absorbency tampon use. Robin's death could have been prevented if only she had recognized the symptoms. Yet, even today, many women are not fully aware of the risks of tampon use or TSS.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one to two of every 100,000 women between the ages of 15–44 years old will be diagnosed with TSS each year. Yet, the last national surveillance was conducted in 1987 and in only four States. Moreover, although TSS is a nationally notifiable disease that States report to CDC, reporting by the States is voluntary. Dismissed as "sporadic," the CDC has not even released this information to the public since 2003. Clearly, we do not have enough transparent or timely information to evaluate the reality of TSS today.

The presence of dioxin—a probable cancer-causing agent—in tampons is also a major concern to women's health. Tampons currently sold in the United States are composed of rayon, cotton, or a combination of both. Alarmingly, rayon is produced from bleached wood pulp, and dioxin is a byproduct of chlorine bleaching of pulp. Although chlorine-free bleaching processes are available, most wood pulp manufacturers use elemental chlorine-free bleaching processes. These processes use chlorine dioxide as a bleaching agent and thus still produce dioxin. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, even 100 percent cotton tampons and completely chlorine-free tampons have trace amounts of dioxin due to decades of pollution that have led to the infiltration of dioxin in the air, water, and ground and thus can be found in both cotton and wood pulp.

The effects of dioxin are cumulative. Women may be exposed to dioxin in tampons and other menstrual products for as long as 60 years over the course of their reproductive lives. Although the FDA requires tampon manufacturers to monitor dioxin levels in their finished products, this information is not readily available to the public.

I am proud to reintroduce the Robin Danielson Act, which would amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a uniform program for the collection and analysis of data on Toxic Shock Syndrome. The bill also directs the National Institutes of Health, NIH, to conduct research to determine the extent to which the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, and other additives in tampons and related products pose any health risks to women and asks the Centers for Disease Control, CDC to collect and report information on TSS.

IN HONOR OF FIREFIGHTERS PHILIP C. ADDISON, PROSPER W. BUCHHART, AND CHARLES W. STEWART OF THE KNICKERBOCKER HOOK & LADDER

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three men who have together given nearly 160 years of service as firefighters in North Jersey. This weekend the Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder Company in Closter, New Jersey will honor these men at their golden anniversary of service. Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder has served the people of Closter since 1893. And, these men have been a part of nearly half of that century of service.

Philip Addison first joined the Closter Fire Department in March 1957. He served as Chief in 1970 and as President in 1972.

Prosper Buchhart joined the Closter Fire Department shortly after Philip, in December 1957, and has also served as Chief and President.

Charles Stewart started with Dumont Fire Company #2 in April 1949 and transferred to the Closter Fire Department 12 years later.

Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder was honored in 2001 by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County for the work of its volunteers to keep the people and businesses of Closter safe and secure. These 45 volunteers spend countless hours on call at work, in their homes, or at the firehouse, responding to about 275 calls a year. They also participate in constant training to ensure their skills are always sharp. In addition to giving selflessly of themselves to respond to fires, accidents, and other emergencies, these firefighters also provide fire prevention education to school children and have sponsored an Explorer Boy Scout Troop.

Philip Addison, Prosper Buchhart, and Charles Stewart exemplify the service and spirit that has long sustained this volunteer fire department and will sustain in for years to come. Their dedication to the public good is commendable and I join the people of Closter in honoring them as they reach this milestone in service.

## CONDOLENCES TO INTERSTATE 4 ACCIDENT VICTIMS

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the victims of the deadly 70-car pile up on Interstate 4 in Polk County, Florida earlier this month. I would also like to express appreciation for the work of many local and state agencies that responded to the accident and provided assistance.

I specifically would like to commend Polk County Sheriff Deputy Carlton Turner III who was the first deputy on the scene in the early morning hours of January 9th, and who used his vehicle as a barrier and later a place of refuge for victims. I would also like to commend Deputy Paul Buoniconti, who was also



on the scene very early and provided critical assistance to the victims.

In emergency situations it is rightly expected that government agencies respond and help citizens in need. The Polk County Sheriff's Office, under the leadership of Sheriff Grady Judd, provided critical incident command services and logistical support for many responding agencies—and they did an outstanding job.

During the course of this accident, agencies that came together to provide critical support included the Polk County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Highway Patrol, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Lake County Fire Department, the Auburndale Police Department, the Haines City Police Department, the Lake Alfred Police Department, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Department of Transportation, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the State of Florida State Emergency Response Team, the Polk County Emergency Medical Services, Polk County Fire Rescue and Osceola County Fire Rescue.

The State of Florida is often credited with having one of the best—if not the best—emergency response models in the nation, and the combined efforts of all responding agencies earlier this month exemplified this well. Their service likely prevented an even greater number of deaths or injuries, and I thank them for their work and service.

#### RECOGNIZING BILL AND BRADLEY GARR

#### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the father and son team of Bill and Bradley Garr. I use the word, "team" because on the afternoon of June 29, 2007, their actions helped save the life of an automobile accident victim.

On that day, as they were traveling along a Phoenix freeway, they witnessed a car go out of control and flip over. They were the first ones to stop to render aid to the seriously injured young woman who was driving. Due to the smoking engine and leaking gasoline, they needed to remove the woman from her car. They then used a fire extinguisher to make sure that a fire did not ensue. By the time fire and paramedics responded, the fire danger was over and the young woman was in a safe place.

While many others kept driving, Bill made the decision to stop and help, and in so doing demonstrated to Bradley important values that will last a lifetime.

I commend Bill and Bradley for their actions, and congratulate them on their selfless actions.

HONORING REKHA CHANDRA  
SEKARAN'S SERVICE TO TEN-  
NESSEE'S SIXTH CONGRES-  
SIONAL DISTRICT

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Rekha Chandrasekaran for her service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while working in my Washington, DC, office.

Rekha hails from Monterey, California—just 2,339 miles away from Monterey, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body. Despite the difference in geography, Rekha has been a great help to me and my staff and has helped me to better represent Middle Tennesseans.

During her four years in the office, she has proven herself to be a strong writer and a talented systems administrator as she worked to launch a new Web site for the office. She has also taken on the task of coordinating a crew of interns each year and shepherding them throughout the Halls of Congress and around the nation's capital.

February 1 is Rekha's last day in the office, as she is leaving to pursue other opportunities on Capitol Hill. My staff and I thank Rekha for her help, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

#### HONORING HOUSTON MAYOR LOUIE WELCH

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the city of Houston recently lost a Texas Gentleman and great civic leader. Former Houston Mayor Louie Welch died on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008 after a long battle with cancer. He was 89 years old. Mayor Welch's contributions to Houston government will impact generations of city residents that now enjoy a better quality of life and greater economic opportunity.

Louie Welch was born on Dec. 9, 1918 in the west Texas town of Lockney. Welch was an industrious boy who performed many tasks to earn money such as sell magazines, deliver milk and sell popcorn for a nickel a bag. In high school, he participated in debate and was elected president of his senior class. These activities were an early sign of his life-long interest in politics.

Welch attended Abilene Christian University and graduated in 1940 with a history degree. While in college, he met his future wife, Lola Faye Cure and they were married on Dec. 17, 1940. They later had five children. After Lola Faye died, Louie married Helen.

After graduating from college, his political career began in 1949 as a Houston city councilman. He served four terms as council member. With a tough political resolve, he ran for Houston mayor four times before finally becoming successful. Welch served as mayor of Houston from 1964 to 1973.

His mother's religious influence left a permanent impression with Welch who, in addi-

tion to graduating from a Christian university, was a member of Garden Oaks Church of Christ for more than 35 years and frequently quoted from the Bible throughout his life. I had the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees at Abilene Christian University with the Mayor.

Mayor Welch will be remembered for a rich legacy of vital construction projects that he helped oversee to completion which improved city services and prepared for future growth in Houston. These projects included construction of Bush Intercontinental Airport, Lake Conroe and Lake Livingston reservoirs which provided much needed water supplies for Houston's rapidly growing residential and commercial areas. Welch's other projects involved closing down inefficient sewer treatment plants, starting the cleanup of the Houston Ship Channel and bayou beautification.

His leadership abilities also extended into national positions with Welch serving as vice president of the National League of Cities from 1970 to 1973 and president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors from 1972 to 1973.

Mayor Welch was a man who loved Houston tremendously. He joked that he didn't tell his sons that they were born in that "northern" city of Dallas until they were much older to protect them from the horrible truth for as long as possible.

He was known for his witty observations on Texas politics and himself. He once said, "When I was elected mayor I spent the better part of my first term weeding out the political appointees I had inherited from my predecessor. Virtually all of my second term, I spent weeding out my own political appointees."

Welch even served a brief stint as guest weatherman for the local TV channel ABC 13. When weatherman Ed Brandon gave the forecast for the chance of rain one day, Mayor Welch was hiding above him in the studio on a ladder and dumped a bucket of water on Brandon's head. He told the very surprised weatherman, "You never get that right. Let's face it: it's always 50 percent. Either it's going to rain or it's not going to rain."

Following his years as mayor, Welch went to work for the Houston Chamber of Commerce, which later became the Greater Houston Partnership, and served as president of the organization for 12 years.

I met the Mayor when I was a teenager. I showed up at the Garden Oaks Church of Christ one Wednesday night seeking out a local girl. The Mayor cornered me and wanted to know who I was and my intentions. I was quite intimidated by the 5'6" Mayor, but after the interrogation, I was approved to speak to the girl—but she still turned me down for a date).

Years later, I went to see the Mayor, then President of the Houston Chamber, because I had decided to run as a Republican for State District Judge in Houston. Being a political nobody and novice I needed sound political advice from an expert. The Mayor told me no Republican had been elected to a state judgeship in Houston since Reconstruction. So, he recommended instead that I run for the non-partisan position of City Council, because Houstonians preferred "nobodies" over Republicans. I did overcome the handicap of being a Republican and for years appreciated his wise political counsel when I served as a judge.

When I taught an Adult Sunday School Class at Bammel Church of Christ, Louie and

his wife Helen would always sit on the front row of the class. The Mayor would interrupt my lesson at some critical point and make a humorous comment about the lesson that would sidetrack our discussion. Louie Welch knew the Good Book as well as the Apostle Paul, but he was much funnier. We shall miss Louie Welch.

His son Gary Welch recently told the Houston Chronicle, "I would like for him to be remembered as a mayor who cared deeply about the city of Houston and each and every person who lived in the city of Houston."

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LANCE  
CORPORAL CAMERON BABCOCK  
OF PLYMOUTH, INDIANA

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Lance Corporal Cameron Babcock a native son of Plymouth, Indiana, and a proud member of the United States Marine Corps. Cameron lost his life in a tragic accident at Twentynine Palms Marine Base in California. On Sunday, January 20, another Marine unintentionally discharged his privately-owned firearm at the Air Ground Combat Center. The bullet struck Cameron in the chest and ultimately killed this fine young Marine. His death was tragic and leaves us all mourning a life cut short. But as we mourn his life, we also remember and honor the richness of Cameron's life with us.

Cameron was a handsome young man who loved his family and loved his country. He was fun-loving and known for his bear hug. He knew the value of the small things that make life a joy: hanging out with friends, playing music, four-wheeling, and spending time with family. And he was successful in enjoying the many riches of life. His talent with the trumpet led to him to compete at the State Jazz Festival in 2005 and his musical talent also led to his participation in the Wind Ensemble comprised with some of the top musicians at Plymouth High School. His warm personality attracted to him a wide circle of friends. Just days after his death, more than three hundred people belonged to an online group dedicated to his memory, with many reminiscing about the joy of having just been able to spend time with Cameron at Christmas.

But Cameron also knew the value of matters larger than himself: his lifelong dream was to join the proud ranks of the United States Marine Corps. Shortly after graduating from Plymouth High School in 2006, Cameron dove right into his lifelong dream and enlisted. His energy, enthusiasm, and many gifts made the Marine Corps, and this nation, better.

He became an infantry rifleman, excelling all through basic training. Before long, he proved his bravery by serving a tour of duty in Iraq. As a member of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, he spent several months in Ramadi, Iraq, in the infamous Sunni Triangle. In this dangerous setting, he continually did his job, and did it well. He earned the National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Combat Action Rib-

bon, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and a Certificate of Commendation. Cameron was slated to return to Iraq in the winter of 2008 and was ready to answer the call of duty once again.

Matt Keller, a lifelong friend, said of Cameron, "He would always be there as someone you needed," and noted his service in Iraq as an example. Cameron was there when we needed him and as a nation, we counted on him. His absence is a sad loss to his parents Jeffery and Ann, his siblings, Kailey, Abigail, Hope and Samuel, and his many other friends and relatives.

Semper Fi. Always Faithful. Today we remember the faithful life of Lance Corporal Lance Babcock, and his dedicated service to his country. From Cameron's example, let us remember to be always faithful as well: always faithful to our family and friends; always faithful to this great nation; and always faithful to the God whose rich and all-encompassing love now and for all eternity surrounds Cameron Babcock.

CITY OF TEMPE TOP 100 BEST  
COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Tempe, my hometown, which was recently honored by America's Promise Alliance, with the designation as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People for 2008. This organization, founded by General Colin Powell, is the largest alliance dedicated to children and youth. Recognition just once is a proud achievement, but this is the third year in a row that the city has been so recognized, and so is deserving of special praise.

One of the entities cited in the award, is the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission, which is believed to be the oldest such commission in the country. When I instituted this commission during my tenure as Mayor of Tempe, I was confident that it had great potential. I am especially pleased that subsequent Mayors have realized the value of this commission which was so deservedly recognized by America's Promise Alliance. The award noted that Tempe was a "pioneer" in this area. Tempe's three multigenerational facilities were also recognized for the city's commitment to facilitate nonprofit organizations' youth services.

America's Promise Alliance evaluates applicants based on Five Promises which have been shown to ensure that children receive the fundamental resources they need to successfully lead healthy and productive lives. These are: caring adults, a safe place, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others.

Tempe has made a commitment to keeping these promises, and has been justifiably recognized for the effort. I extend my congratulations and thanks for a job well done.

HONORING LOYD AND SUE  
EUBANKS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Loyd and Sue Eubanks on their 50th wedding anniversary.

The Eubanks met in February 1956 at the Methodist Church in Havelock, N.C. Loyd proposed to Sue in December of that year and then left for fourteen months to Japan as a 2nd Lt. and pilot with VMF-334. Upon his return, the Eubanks were married on March 8, 1958 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Modesto, California. Their honeymoon was spent traveling back across the country in a brown Volkswagen to Havelock, North Carolina.

After 7-8 months, Loyd finished his staff duty and went to Pensacola and Jacksonville, N.C. where he trained and eventually flew helicopters for the remaining 14 months of service. During that time, they celebrated the birth of their first son, Kenneth Allen, at the Naval Hospital at Camp Lejeune. After Loyd's time in the service, he earned a degree in Accounting and for the next thirteen years, they lived in Dallas and Kansas City where Loyd worked for the International Accounting Firm of Ernst and Ernst. Their second son, Clifford Daniel, was born in Dallas in November 1964.

In 1975, Loyd went to work for the LTV Corporation in Oklahoma City and then Dallas. While living in Southlake, Texas, Sue worked as a substitute teacher at Carroll ISD and taught in the Mothers Day Out Program at the Bedford UMC. She also earned an Associate Degree from Tarrant County Community College. Loyd served on the City Council.

In the early 1990's, and after 18 years as residents of Texas, the Eubanks moved to California. The LTV Corporation dismantled and was acquired by Northrop Grumman Corporation whose headquarters was Los Angeles. After 4 years in California and missing their grandchildren, the Eubanks moved back to the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex and currently live in Euless, Texas.

Loyd and Sue have been active members of their community and do most things together. Sue is a Republican Precinct Chairman and Election Judge. Loyd builds signs and serves as a low ranking Election Clerk. They are active members of the Metroplex Republican Women's Club, the Northeast Couples Club and the Bedford United Methodist Church. Throughout the years, they have been active in the PTA, the Cub Scouts, the JCs, the Kiwanis, the United Methodist Women and the Republican Party.

The Eubanks enjoy camping and spending time with their children and grandchildren: Kristi, Mason, Allie, Caleb and Alyssa.

It is my honor to recognize Loyd and Sue Eubanks and congratulate them on this wonderful and momentous event. Together they exemplify the ideals of strong family and community involvement. I would like to extend my best wishes to the Eubanks as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES BOSWELL  
FOR HIS YEARS OF DEDICATION  
AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Fort Worth City Manager Charles Boswell. After 30 years with the City of Fort Worth, and just over three years as the City Manager, Mr. Boswell has announced that he will retire in January of 2008.

Mr. Boswell began his career with the City of Fort Worth in 1977 as a Budget Analyst and over the years climbed the ladder to become the city's 21st City Manager in 2004. Under his leadership, Fort Worth citizens approved six bond packages which resulted in more than \$766 million in new streets, parks, libraries, fire stations and other major improvements. These feats repeatedly helped Fort Worth earn honors as one of the best places in the nation to live and work.

Mr. Boswell is credited with introducing innovative financial management strategies that have resulted in a financially solid municipal organization and have been key in reducing the amount of city tax dollars needed for debt service. At the same time, Mr. Boswell built the city's reserve funds to their highest levels to cover emergency needs as they arise.

I have been privileged to have had a city manager in my district who understands what it means for a city to be healthy as a whole. Mr. Boswell's focus and efforts to include "The Other Fort Worth", an area east of I-35 that had been forgotten for decades by some, has planted a seed for revitalization that will benefit Fort Worth and Tarrant County residents for years to come.

Although his tenure as City Manager is officially ending, I know Mr. Boswell will continue to serve Fort Worth as a dedicated citizen and advocate. I join his colleagues, friends and family members in wishing him all the best as he looks forward to spending more time with his family.

Again, Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Charles Boswell for his tireless duties as a dedicated serviceman to the City of Fort Worth, Texas. It is an honor to recognize such a hard-working and devoted citizen. It is the servant leadership of Mr. Boswell, and those like him, which truly makes our nation great.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT  
MAJOR BILLY DEAN ONEYEAR

### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize SGM Billy Dean Oneyear, who passed away on January 7, 2008. A longtime resident of Fountain, Colorado, Sergeant Major Oneyear was a true servant to his nation and community. I rise today to honor his contribution to our country.

Sergeant Major Oneyear served in the United States Army in both the Korean War and Vietnam conflict. He received numerous

decorations including the Bronze Star. As a veteran, Sergeant Major Oneyear served as national first vice president of the Retired Enlisted Association.

Sergeant Major Oneyear, a ping-pong champion and college football referee, had a vibrant spirit and pursued a variety of interests. He and his family also graciously hosted several Air Force Academy cadets.

Throughout his life, Sergeant Major Oneyear was committed to serving to this great country, whether in the Army or as a veteran helping retirees and veterans. I deeply mourn his passing, and today ask that we honor the life of a true American hero.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER  
ALEXANDER LEMARR

### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of a fallen hero and Sailor from my district, Petty Officer Alexander "Kip" LeMarr of Parker, Colorado. Petty Officer LeMarr was tragically killed on January 16 when his helicopter crashed on a mission near the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas. He was only 25 years old.

Petty Officer LeMarr joined the Navy in 2004, becoming a qualified aviation warfare system operator. He was assigned to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15. He served admirably overseas in Bahrain before returning to the United States to continue his training and service.

Hundreds of sailors and members of the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi gathered on base on January 25th to honor Petty Officer LeMarr and his colleagues. Petty Officer Hector Reyes described LeMarr as a good friend, "Kip was the kind of person that loved to fly," Reyes said.

Americans should never forget his service or sacrifice, and the nation will forever owe a great debt of gratitude to Alexander and his family. His life was a tribute to the best America has to offer.

Madam Speaker, my most heartfelt condolences go out to Alexander's family and friends. He will be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE TOP 100  
BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG  
PEOPLE

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Scottsdale, which was recently honored by America's Promise Alliance, with the designation as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People for 2008. This organization, founded by General Colin Powell, is the largest alliance dedicated to children and youth. Recognition just once is a proud achievement, but this is the third year in a row that the city has been so recognized, and so is deserving of special praise.

This award was not earned by a single entity, but rather from the combined efforts of organizations throughout the city. This recognition would not have been possible without the collaboration of all city departments, the Scottsdale Unified School District, the excellent health care network and outstanding non-profit organizations which serve the youth of the community and contribute to the quality of life in Scottsdale.

America's Promise Alliance evaluates applicants based on Five Promises which have been shown to ensure that children receive the fundamental resources they need to successfully lead healthy and productive lives. These are: caring adults, a safe place, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others.

The City of Scottsdale has made a commitment to keeping these promises, and has been justifiably recognized for the effort. I extend my congratulations and thanks for a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD  
MICHAEL "GOOSE" GOSSAGE

### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Michael "Goose" Gossage, on his acceptance into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and to recognize the contributions he has made to my hometown of Colorado Springs and the State of Colorado. In his 22 years in Major League Baseball, this skilled and powerful closer helped to change the way the game was played.

While playing with the Yankees, Gossage, one of the first closers in baseball, pioneered the set-up/closer configuration. He had the most saves in the American League 1975, 1978, and 1980—a record which is still impressive today. In addition, Gossage made 9 All-Star appearances, pitched in 3 World Series, and finished out 681 games.

Not only are his pitching statistics significant, but Gossage has also made a sizable contribution to his community in Colorado. In recognition of Gossage's extensive work in support of youth sports in Colorado, the Gossage Youth Sports Complex located in Colorado Springs was named after him.

Today I honor Richard Michael "Goose" Gossage's achievements, and express my gratitude, as a resident of Colorado Springs, for all he has done for our community. It is with great joy that I hear of his acceptance to the Hall of Fame. I wish him the best as he continues his work on behalf of American youth, Colorado Springs, and the sport of baseball.

HONORING BORDER AGENT LUIS  
AGUILAR

### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of Senior Patrol

Agent Luis Aguilar of the Border Patrol from Yuma, Arizona. Agent Aguilar was killed in the line of duty on January 19th while trying to apprehend a suspected drug smuggler in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. He was 32 years old.

The core values of the Border Patrol emphasize vigilance, service, and integrity in the defense of America and its laws. Those individuals who commit themselves to these principles recognize the prominence of the American way of life as well as its fragility; something that must be defended against those elements which seek to undermine democracy and freedom. Agent Aguilar spent much of his life as a guardian of these values and this Nation.

Agent Aguilar began his career with the Border Patrol in 2002 when he enrolled in the 519th session of the Border Patrol Academy. Following graduation, he was stationed at the Yuma Border Patrol Station where he quickly earned the respect and loyalty of his fellow agents and the surrounding community.

This tragic incident highlights not only the dangers border agents encounter, but also emphasizes the extreme heroism and valor exhibited by those whose job it is to keep Americans safe.

Madam Speaker, my most heartfelt condolences go out to Luis' family and friends. He will undoubtedly be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

#### CITY OF CHANDLER TOP 100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

#### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Chandler, which was recently honored by America's Promise Alliance, with the designation as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People for 2008. This organization, founded by General Colin Powell, is the largest alliance dedicated to children and youth. Recognition just once is a proud achievement, but this is the third year in a row that the city has been recognized, and so is deserving of special praise.

Chandler was recognized for this honor because of its intense commitment to youth. One of the key items noted by the Alliance was the Coalition for Chandler Youth, which was organized in September 2006 to address youth issues on a communitywide basis.

This award was not earned due to the efforts of a single entity, but rather from the combined efforts of members of government, local businesses, youth representatives, and numerous other organizations throughout the city.

America's Promise Alliance evaluates applicants based on Five Promises which have been shown to ensure that children receive the fundamental resources they need to successfully lead healthy and productive lives. These are: caring adults, a safe place, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others.

The City of Chandler has made a commitment to keeping these promises, and has been justifiably recognized for the effort. I ex-

tend my congratulations and thanks for a job well done.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN WATKINS JR.

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Atmore and the state of Alabama recently lost a dedicated community leader, and I rise today to honor Mr. John Watkins Jr. and pay tribute to his memory.

After graduating from the Escambia County Training School, Mr. Watkins continued his studies at Faulkner State College in Bay Minette, Alabama, and received an associate's degree in applied science.

A World War II veteran, John served in the United States Army on the Marianas Islands in Guam. Following his service in the Army, he spent 31 years at Monsanto/Solutia Textile and Chemical Plant in Pensacola where he served as a cook, cafeteria foreman and a main plant foreman.

In 1992, John was elected to the Atmore City Council. As the councilman for District 3, he was influential in securing various grants for housing rehabilitation, paving streets and demolishing condemned houses throughout the community. He served as chairman of both the Atmore Planning Board and the Escambia County Quality Assurance Committee for 12 years. In 1996, he was named the mayor pro-tempore of Atmore.

In addition to his work as an elected member of the Atmore City Council, John was a member of the Atmore Lions Club and served as its president from 2000–2001. He was also a member of Gaines Chapel AME Church in Atmore and served as a chairman of the trustee board for over eight years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a friend to many throughout Alabama, as well as a wonderful husband and devoted father. John Watkins will be dearly missed by his family—his wife of 55 years, Veola Watkins; their children, Brenda Jackson, John Watkins III, and Roderick Lynn Watkins; his sisters, Bessie Brock, Carrie Millender, Ella Quaker, Ethel Spaulding; his 10 grandchildren; and his one great-grandchild—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

#### CELEBRATING 61 YEARS OF BROADCASTING AT WKRM IN COLUMBIA, TN

#### HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on November 25th, 1946, at 7:00 p.m., Robert McKay, Jr. put WKRM on the air from the Bethell Hotel in Columbia, Tennessee for the very first time. Over sixty years later, Robert continues to provide quality broadcasting to the people of Columbia.

Robert's service to Columbia, to Tennessee and to our country goes beyond his work at WKRM. A veteran of World War II, Robert served our military in the Philippines from 1942 until the War's end. When he returned, Robert took it upon himself to found the area's first local radio station with its own News Director.

Since its founding, WKRM has continually provided Maury County with outstanding news coverage, bringing the news to Columbia and its surrounding areas and, beginning in 1947, covering the annual Mule Day celebration live from the front porch of WKRM's station.

From their inaugural broadcast at the Bethell Hotel, Robert's tenacity has made WKRM the success that it is today. Even a devastating fire in 1950 that destroyed all but the station's antenna only kept WKRM off the air for thirteen days before Robert was again bringing news to Columbia. Robert's firm resolve has grown WKRM into two stations that he continues to operate today. At eighty-seven year's old, Robert is still working hard for Tennessee, and I join my colleagues today in commending him for his work, his life and his service.

#### INTRODUCING THE INNOCENCE PROJECT GOLD MEDAL BILL

#### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Barry C. Scheck and Peter J. Neufeld in recognition of their outstanding service to the Nation as co-founders and co-directors of the Innocence Project.

Madam Speaker, the Innocence Project is responsible for exonerating 210 innocent individuals who were on Death Row. In my home State of Illinois, through their work in the Innocence Project, Mr. Scheck and Mr. Neufeld have helped free 27 innocent individuals. Twenty-seven, Madam Speaker, twenty-seven individuals that if not for the work of these two men and their colleagues may be dead right now.

Dead for crimes they did not commit.

Madam Speaker, in addition to helping with wrongful convictions Mr. Scheck and Mr. Neufeld have worked to create clinics across the country that help prove the innocence of the wrongfully convicted. Furthermore, their work through the Innocence Project has been instrumental in encouraging States across the country to reform their death penalty systems. These reforms range from preservation of evidence, to providing access to DNA evidence for convicted individuals.

Madam Speaker, even today the inconsistencies and injustice of the death penalty system continues to come to light.

A recent study by the American Bar Association illustrates the very problems that the work of these two men hopes to counter. For example, the ABA study found that:

"States are not requiring that crime laboratories and medical examiner offices be accredited";

States "are failing to provide for the appointment of counsel in post-conviction proceedings";

"Most states fail to require that the jury be instructed that it may impose a life sentence if a juror does not believe that the defendant should receive the death penalty";

"Every state studied appears to have significant racial disparities in its capital system, particularly those associated with the race of the victim"; and

"States do not formally commute a death sentence upon a finding that the inmate is incompetent to proceed on factual matters requiring the inmate's input".

As illustrated by this small sampling, these injustices are so grave, Madam Speaker, that the ABA—an organization normally silent in regards to the death penalty—has called for a nationwide moratorium.

Madam Speaker, in light of such regular occurrences of injustice in our system, it is important now more than ever to celebrate the work of individuals who are correcting the ills in our judicial system.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in bestowing upon Barry C. Scheck and Peter J. Neufeld the Congressional Gold Medal. Their work to ensure that we, as a country, remain a nation devoted still to "truth, justice, and the American way" is admirable and must be recognized.

#### CELEBRATING THE BIRTH AND LIFE OF FATHER D'AGOSTINO

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Father Angelo D'Agostino, SJ, MD. Father D'Ag, as he was called by all who knew and loved him, was born on January 26, 1926 in Providence, Rhode Island. Unfortunately, Father D'Ag was taken from us in 2006. However, his birth is a cause for continued celebration as he was a living testament to the principle that one person can indeed make a difference.

I have met many wonderful and inspiring people in my years of service in Congress, but there was clearly something very special about Father D'Ag, and I feel honored and, frankly, lucky to have had the opportunity to meet him in Kenya and in Washington. He made a lasting impression on me, just as he did on so many others throughout the world.

In 1992, at a time in Africa when so many lives were lost to the scourge of AIDS, Father D'Ag set up the first facility in Kenya to care for HIV infected children known as Nyumbani, Swahili for "home". These children were orphaned by the loss of a parent from the same affliction or who were abandoned by parents who could not or would not care for an HIV-positive child. His first three children soon blossomed into a community of children, but they were dying at an alarming rate. Through strong perseverance and advocacy on behalf of the children, Father D'Ag battled the drug companies for affordable anti-retroviral medicines. He also battled the Kenyan government to allow the children into the public primary schools.

Ultimate success on both fronts enabled him to manage the virus and start to chip away at the societal HIV stigma against these precious

children. As a result, Nyumbani was transformed from a hospice into a program that nurtured the children's growth and development, thanks to the painstaking care and love that he and his staff gave to these kids. Nyumbani today has 107 bright children with loving hearts, beautiful smiles, and boundless energy on the soccer field.

Despite this monumental accomplishment at Nyumbani, Father D'Ag did not rest after providing a home for HIV-positive children without parents. He went on to develop another program: Lea Toto, Swahili for "to raise the child", to provide medical care and nutrition to HIV-positive children who have parents but live in poverty in the many slums in and around Nairobi. Today there are approximately 2,500 people who benefit from this community outreach program and stand a chance to survive under extreme hardship because of Father D'Ag.

However, Father D'Ag was not done. After reading the stories about abandoned street children that had been slain by police, Father D'Ag felt a need to expand his reach and protect the ever burgeoning number of street children in Kenya. He designed an additional program, one that pairs children and the elderly, the two groups most vulnerable to the ravages of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Father D'Ag designed this program in his mind, and through his perseverance and guile acquired a tract of land in Kitui that became his beloved Nyumbani Village. In this eco-friendly, self-sustaining village the grandparents care for their own grandchildren as well as other needy children in a house with a garden, access to the village school, and training in one of the many income-generating projects. While this village is still a work in progress, it already has 258 residents, 29 grandparents, and 229 children, with a capacity of 1,000 residents.

These achievements by Father D'Ag should serve as an inspiration to us all. He changed the world one child at a time, and he expanded his reach to do so much for so many people who are in desperate need of food, medical care and love. Even though he has departed from this world, he has left behind an enduring legacy through his programs for children. His passion and commitment are carried on through his incredible disciple and partner, Sister Mary Owens, who continues his work. She is joined by many other dedicated staff members and volunteers who will continue to nurture and protect Father D'Ag's children. No one can visit Nyumbani without being changed forever.

Today, Kenya, the home of Father D'Ag's work, is facing unusually difficult civil discord. This recent civil unrest reminds us how fragile life can be in a nation where so many people live in such quiet desperation. Hopefully, these tribal divisions will soon be healed. In the meantime, we must stop and take a moment to reflect upon one man—a Jesuit priest and medical doctor—who put his heart, soul and life into caring for those who could not care for themselves. It is an honor to rise today and call on all of my colleagues and people around the world to join in celebrating the great fortune that the birth and life of Father D'Agostino was for the children of Kenya and each of us who had the opportunity to know him.

Happy Birthday, Father D'Ag, and thank you for your enduring contributions.

#### HONORING HURON HUMANE SOCIETY

#### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Huron Humane Society (HHS) in Alpena, Michigan, on its 25th anniversary this year. HHS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for the homeless dogs and cats of Alpena County. On any given day, the shelter is charged with caring for more than 20 dogs and more than 80 cats. With a maximum capacity of 120 animals, the shelter often houses closer to 150. With so many urgent needs in our local communities, our pets are often overlooked. The Huron Humane Society is making sure the welfare of four-legged friends, considered family to many, is not overlooked.

The Huron Humane Society has been providing a valuable service to Alpena and the surrounding communities for more than a quarter century. HHS is a no-kill shelter and works to heal and rehabilitate the pets that come through its doors. While HHS cooperates with local governments to provide services to the surrounding city, township and county, it relies mostly on private donations to keep the doors open. Fundraisers, grants and donations account for more than 85 percent of its budget. And even with limited resources, the shelter continues to put the animals it cares for first.

The Huron Humane Society provides a full range of services to help keep animals in homes and rehabilitate those animals that come to the shelter. The shelter serves as safe haven for stray animals, and provides a service for the residents of the community by making sure all animals that come through its doors are properly vaccinated. HHS provides shelter for stray and lost pets, rehabilitates those that are ill or injured, and ultimately locates suitable homes for those pets. The Huron Humane Society promotes a public education program, urging individuals to spay and neuter their pets, helping to reduce the number of unwanted animals in the community. HHS also offer valuable training to pet owners on properly caring for their pets, and offers a microchipping service to the community to aid in locating pets should they become lost.

The shelter manages to accomplish this great work with a full-time staff of three and three additional part-time employees. While the shelter also receives assistance from those required to perform community service and local inmates, it is the community volunteers that provide the additional labor to keep the Huron Humane Society running.

This coming weekend, the Huron Humane Society will hold its 25th Anniversary Gala. One year ago, this annual event raised more than \$15,000. More than 200 people opened up their checkbooks to help the shelter continue to provide its valuable service to the community. Especially as we see story after story in the news of helpless animals being abused and mistreated, it is important every community have its own Huron Humane Society to look out for the animals that can't look out for themselves.

Madam Speaker, as the Huron Humane Society celebrates its 25th anniversary, I ask that

you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in recognizing the valuable contribution the shelter, its staff and volunteers make to Alpena County. Please join with and the people of Alpena County, Michigan in congratulating the Huron Humane Society on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL  
GEOLOGIC MAPPING REAUTHOR-  
IZATION ACT OF 2008

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to be joined by the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. RAHALL of West Virginia, in introducing the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 2008, which would reauthorize the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program, a critically important initiative that was created by the Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, originally sponsored by Chairman RAHALL.

The importance of geologic maps to our society is not very well known by the general public, but it is hard to overstate. Geologic maps help us build highways, safeguard drinking water, prepare for disasters, protect wildlife, discover precious minerals, locate the fuels that power our society, and much more.

Geologic maps are particularly essential for my own home State. Californians face more geologic hazards than almost anyone else in the country. Over 25 million people live in the State's tectonically active regions near the coast, where earthquakes are only one of a multitude of geologic threats. Landslides, floods, hazardous minerals, and tsunamis are some of the other dangers that come with living in one of the most seismically active and geologically diverse states in the nation.

The STATEMAP component of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program has provided over \$2.5 million to California, matched by over \$2.6 million from the State, to create highly precise geologic maps that are being used by the California Geological Survey's Seismic Hazard Mapping Program to identify areas that are most prone to liquefaction or landslides during earthquakes. This information allows communities to require stronger building codes in areas that are more susceptible to these hazards, or to avoid them altogether.

In addition, the maps created through STATEMAP provide information about the location of California's abundant supply of oil, natural gas, and valuable minerals, and have also been used to support water management decision-making around Lake Tahoe.

California is, of course, not the only State that benefits from the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program. Since the program's inception, 49 States, plus Puerto Rico, have matched nearly \$70 million in STATEMAP funds to help produce over 7,500 new geologic maps. Despite this effort, only about 25 percent of the Nation has been mapped at a precision that provides the maximum benefits. And only 2 percent of Cali-

fornia has been mapped under the STATEMAP program.

There are two additional components to the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program: the FEDMAP component, which is run by the United States Geological Survey and carries out geologic mapping according to priorities developed by a Federal advisory committee, and the EDMAP component, which has provided millions of dollars to help train over 600 students at 131 universities across the Nation. According to the Department of the Interior, the vast majority of those students receiving EDMAP grants continued in the geosciences, indicating that this program is truly helping to train the next generation of geologists.

A reauthorization of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program is necessary in order to continue to move the goals of the program forward, to build on the momentum of the previous 16 years, and to provide comprehensive geologic mapping of the entire country. The program has been reauthorized with broad bipartisan support in 1997 and 1999, and a similar bill introduced in the 109th Congress received the endorsement of the administration and passed the House on a voice vote. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and moving forward quickly toward reauthorizing this essential program.

HONORING HRANT DINK

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, this month we remember the one-year anniversary of the tragic death of Hrant Dink, a prominent Turkish-Armenian intellectual and human rights advocate. Dink fought tirelessly to engage the Turkish community in open discussions of the many injustices suffered by Armenians, beginning with the Genocide of 1915. As a mentor and a hero, his tragic death shook the lives of many around the world.

Dink's tireless efforts and strong conviction to educate the citizens of Turkey, and his writings of the Armenian Genocide led to a 6-month jail sentence in October 2005. He advocated for justice, and wrote with a conscience, all despite daily threats to his life. Hrant Dink was killed because he was a courageous journalist and continued to write his columns in hopes of getting rid of the ignorance that exists in Turkey. On the one-year anniversary of his death we remember Dink's message of liberty, civility, truth and bridge-building. In Dink's memory, I have joined my House colleagues in recognizing the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

It is my hope that Turkey will repeal the arbitrary statute, which makes it a crime to "insult Turkishness." Turkey claims to be a secular state with free elections, yet it clearly lacks the chief principle of a democratic nation: freedom of the press. The death of Hrant Dink is a tragedy that was fueled by injustice, and I strongly urge Turkey to abolish this capricious and dated statute.

I express my condolences to the family and colleagues of Hrant Dink. As we recall him in

life, and mourn his tragic death, we renew our commitment to work towards advancing the ideals and values, for which he so passionately stood.

IN TRIBUTE TO GUAM POLICE  
OFFICER FRANKIE E. SMITH

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Guam in mourning the loss of one of Guam's finest in a senseless hit and run. On the night of December 30, 2007, Guam Police Officer Frankie E. Smith was on his police motorcycle responding to a 911 call for police assistance when he was fatally struck by a drunken driver. I rise to honor and pay tribute to Officer Frankie E. Smith, and all law enforcement personnel on Guam and throughout our country, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting our communities.

Officer Frankie E. Smith, a young man of 35 years, was born on August 30, 1972, attended the public schools of Guam and graduated from the 1st Guam Community College Basic Law Enforcement Academy in 1997. He immediately began his career in service to his community in the aftermath of the devastation of Super Typhoon Paka. But even before the completion of his police training, his service to his people and his country began as a citizen soldier of the United States Army and Air Force Reserves. "Smitty" wanted to become the best police officer he could be, and this motivated him to seek out and complete extensive training in various areas of law enforcement, including crime scene investigation, responding to terrorist threats, and detection of illegal substances. His desire for greater knowledge and skills was answered through intensive training with various local and Federal law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Officer Smith's tenacity as a police officer was instrumental in solving numerous crimes against property and violent crimes against individuals, in the apprehension and arrest of their perpetrators, and in the recovery of evidence leading to convictions. His skills and motivation as an officer of the law were recognized and commended on numerous occasions by the leadership of the Guam Police Department and the Governor of Guam. His resolve and determination to serve the public and protect our community will be sorely missed by his fellow officers and the citizens of Guam, but his memory will always serve as motivation to those who served with him and to those who will follow.

On behalf of the people of Guam I extend our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to his wife Tishawanna Hernandez Smith, daughters, Tamara Perez and Kae'Ana Justine Smith, to his parents, Frank Borja and Teresita Fejeran Smith, and to his fellow brothers and sisters in uniform, the officers in the Guam Police Department.



IN RECOGNITION OF THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD RECEIVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S 2007 CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PERFORMANCE AND INNOVATION AWARD

### HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today I stand supporting the passage of H. Res 832. This legislation recognizes the Texas Water Development Board for receiving the Environmental Protection Agency's 2007 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Performance and Innovation Award. The award recognizes states that have been the most innovative and effective in advancing EPA's goals of performance and protection through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. The award is given to one State in each of the ten EPA regions.

The ten State programs were nominated by the regional offices based upon the following criteria: pace level greater than 80 percent, audit with no serious programmatic or financial problems, outstanding performance in at least two of the following areas: better management practices, full-cost pricing, efficient water use, watershed approach, creative use of technologies, leveraging practices, innovative partnerships, innovative lending practices, and effective outreach.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) was region six award winner because of its support of water efficiency through water reuse and conservation. One of its major accomplishment in 2007 was a \$10.7 million Northwest Water Reuse Initiative consisting of a five-phase project in El Paso County to deliver treated wastewater for reuse to irrigators, industries, and homeowners from El Paso's Northwest Wastewater Treatment Plant.

I would like to thank TWDB for their work with the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District to institute well metering on wells of a number of irrigators using groundwater from formations other than the Edwards Aquifer. The District will use the TWDB grant and local funds to purchase and install 80–90 meters.

The TWDB continues its goals of assisting with regional planning, and preparing the state Water Plan for the development of the state's water resources, and administering cost-effective financial programs for the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control and agricultural water conservation projects. For being the recipient of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Performance and Innovation Award, I recognize Texas Water Development Board on this day.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on January 22 and 23,

2008. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "yea" on each of the following bills:

Roll 19, January 22, 2008: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass: H.R. 4211, Naming the Judge Richard B. Allsbrough Post Office.

Roll 20, January 22, 2008: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree: H. Res. 866, Honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records.

Roll 21, January 23, 2008: On Ordering the Previous Question: H.R. 3963, Children's Health Insurance Program Extension and Improvement.

Roll 22, January 23, 2008: Passage, Objections of the President Not Withstanding: H.R. 3963, Children's Health Insurance Program Extension and Improvement.

### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES LUCE

### HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, as we look forward to considering legislation in Congress this year to address our Nation's energy shortage, it is my sad duty to announce that one of the real giants of the energy business in the United States has passed away. Charles F. Luce, the former chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Consolidated Edison, died this past weekend at age 90 after a brief illness.

Starting as a meter reader for a power company when he was a teenager, Chuck Luce rose to become a legend in the electric power industry through an interesting career progression. Following his clerkship for Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, Chuck Luce practiced law in Walla Walla, Washington, for 15 years. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy summoned him into public service as the Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets the power from the Columbia River hydroelectric system in the Pacific Northwest. At BPA, he was an enlightened leader who keenly understood federal energy issues, pioneering many jurisdictional arrangements that established the distribution of federal power resources in the Northwest, including the Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie.

During the Johnson Administration, Interior Secretary Stewart Udall brought him back to Washington to serve as Undersecretary of the Interior Department, but his talents were quickly recognized and summoned when Con-Ed, New York's largest utility, needed a steady hand to confront looming problems of growth and supply. He led Con-Ed during the toughest times that any American utility has faced in our Nation's history, including the oil supply crisis of the 1970s and the infamous New York City blackout in 1977. His leadership through those times of crisis set an example of calm and focused action, and he is remembered as one of the most effective and thoughtful leaders in an industry that affects every American every day.

I want to take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, to insert into the RECORD Mr. Luce's obituary, printed today in the New York Times, so that Members can read the story of a truly legendary figure in the history of electric power generation and transmission in the United States.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 29, 2008]

CHARLES F. LUCE, EX-CHIEF OF CON ED, IS DEAD AT 90

(By Dennis Hevesi)

Charles F. Luce, the chairman and chief executive of Consolidated Edison, the giant New York electric and gas utility during some of its most difficult times, died Saturday in Torrance, Calif. He was 90 and lived in Bronxville, N.Y.

The cause was prostate cancer, said Joyce Hergenhan, a former company spokeswoman.

Mr. Luce headed Con Ed from 1967 to 1982 and dealt with the oil crisis of the 1970s, customer rage over rising rates, the 1977 blackout that paralyzed New York City and the settlement of a decades-long struggle with environmental groups over construction of a power plant at Storm King Mountain on the Hudson River.

A liberal Democrat and an environmentalist, Mr. Luce did not fit the standard profile of the big-business executive when he agreed to leave his post as under secretary of the interior in the Johnson administration to take over Consolidated Edison.

"The metropolitan area's need for electric energy doubles about every 15 years," Mr. Luce said then. "To supply these vast new quantities of energy at reasonable cost, but protect the city's environment from pollution and unsightly structures, is a king-size job."

It became particularly difficult in 1973, when fuel prices skyrocketed because of the Arab oil embargo, and Con Ed's rates followed.

Facing customer protests, Mr. Luce chose to soften the monthly billing blow by eliminating the company's April 1974 dividend. That prompted shareholder protests, and on May 24, 1974, Mr. Luce presided over a meeting at the old Commodore Hotel on 42nd Street at which customers and shareholders boisterously expressed their views.

A New York Times headline the next day said, "Days of Anxiety for the Man Who Saved a Watt."

That was a reference to the "Save-a-Watt" program, which Mr. Luce had instituted soon after taking over as Con Ed chairman. It was a shift from the electric industry's traditional marketing strategy, succinctly expressed as "Live better electrically."

For 25 hours, starting on the evening of July 13, 1977, New York City could not live electrically at all. Two lightning strikes on major tie-lines in Westchester County led to the collapse of the entire system.

Some Con Ed officials attributed the blackout to "an act of God." Although Mr. Luce did not utter the phrase himself, he became associated with it.

He kept cool in the face of Mayor Abraham D. Beame's accusations of "gross negligence" on the part of the company, saying, "Respectfully, I think he's wrong," and calling for a fair review.

In the end, Con Ed had to concede that the systemwide expansion of the power failure after the local lightning strikes was largely its fault.

Four years before Mr. Luce became chairman, Con Ed had started seeking approval from regulators to build a hydroelectric plant on Storm King Mountain in Orange County, 55 miles north of New York City. Opposition to that plan and to proposals for other power plants along the Hudson River

was fierce and unrelenting for nearly 20 years.

Then, in December 1980, 11 environmental groups, Con Ed and other utility companies reached what became known as the Hudson River Peace Treaty. Mr. Luce had asked Russell E. Train, a former head of the Environmental Protection Agency, to mediate the dispute.

Under the agreement, Con Ed abandoned efforts to build the Storm King plant. In return, the environmental groups and the federal Environmental Protection Agency dropped their demands that Con Ed build six costly cooling towers to protect fish from being sucked into power plants at Indian Point and several other sites along the river. The agreement was widely cited as a model for balancing economic and environmental needs.

Charles Franklin Luce was born on Aug. 12, 1917, in Platteville, WI, a son of James and Wilma Luce. His father owned a furniture store and a mortuary.

As a teenager, Mr. Luce got some early exposure to the utility business as a meter reader for the local power company.

Mr. Luce earned a bachelor's degree and a law degree through a five-year program at the University of Wisconsin in 1941, then received a master's degree in law at Yale in 1942.

Unable to enlist for military service in World War II because of an attack of polio, Mr. Luce became a staff lawyer for the Board of Economic Warfare in Washington.

A year later, on the recommendation of a professor at Yale, he was chosen as a law clerk to Justice Hugo L. Black of the Supreme Court.

For 15 years after World War II, Mr. Luce practiced law in Walla Walla, Washington.

Then, in 1961, President Kennedy chose him to head the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets power from the Grand Coulee Dam and more than 20 other federal hydroelectric plants in the Columbia River Basin.

Mr. Luce also worked with Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall in creating the Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie, a vast power transmission complex. He negotiated a 1964 treaty with Canada for joint hydroelectric development of the Columbia River.

At Mr. Udall's request, President Johnson appointed Mr. Luce as under secretary of the Interior in September 1966. But within six months, Con Ed officials—spurred by a Fortune magazine headline, "The Company You Love to Hate"—asked Mr. Luce to take control of the company.

Mr. Luce's first wife, Helen Oden, died in 2001. He is survived by his second wife, the former Margaret Richmond; two sons, James, of Vancouver, Washington, and Charles Jr., of Boulder, Colorado; two daughters, Christina Gordon of Mansfield Center, Connecticut, and Barbara Luce of Portland, Connecticut; and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Luce was an avid biker. As Con Ed chairman, he would regularly pedal around

Manhattan on a three-speed bike, wearing a meter-reader's cap, inspecting company work crews and peeking into open manholes.

#### RECOGNIZING THE OHIO NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION'S 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

##### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, congratulations are in order for the Ohio Newspaper Association, which is celebrating 75 years of service to its members and those who read and use newspapers every day. The ONA represents 83 daily newspapers, more than 170 weeklies, and over 150 newspaper Web sites.

As you might expect, the ONA provides effective representation for its members before all levels of government, but it does far more than that. The association has long been a strong advocate for open government, benefiting all our citizens. It also provides seminars, workshops, and other tools for professional development.

Just as important are the activities of the affiliated Ohio Newspapers Foundation. This charitable organization provides scholarships and internships for journalism students, assistance to high school newspapers, and sponsored projects promoting literacy across Ohio.

For 75 years, the Ohio Newspaper Association and its members have provided leadership in promoting freedom of the press and a well-informed society, ideals that are important to all of us. I join others throughout our State in wishing them decades of more success.

#### CONGRATULATING THE SIGNATURE LEARNING CENTER

##### HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Signature Learning Center in Evansville for being recognized as one of the top high schools in the Nation by US News & World Report.

Of course, they aren't telling us anything we didn't already know. In the Evansville community, the Signature Learning Center has developed a well-deserved reputation of academic excellence with 100 percent enrollment in advanced college prep courses and 100 percent graduation rate.

And people are taking notice. In addition to this recognition, the school was listed by

Newsweek as one of the top 100 high schools in the Nation last year, and just this year was named a National Charter School of the Year by the Center for Education Reform.

These students are the next generation of leaders in our community. The quality of education they receive has a direct impact on the strength of our country.

The Signature Learning Center is providing students in southern Indiana with the tools they need to meet their full potential and make a difference in our world. I am proud of their accomplishments and grateful for their continued contributions to the Evansville community.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

SPEECH OF

##### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2008*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, throughout the month of January, we observe National Mentoring Month, which calls to attention the importance of fostering positive, helping relationships with our youth. I rise today to recognize the importance of mentoring to the vitality of our Nation.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, there are 3 million mentors in the United States. While impressive at first glance, the reality is, there are far more young people in need of the caring support of an adult mentor that go without one—over 14 million youths across the Nation are still in need of a mentoring relationship.

I would like to commend the many community-based organizations in the Greater Hartford region, in my own State of Connecticut that provide mentoring services and youth focused programs like the Community Renewal Team, Hartford Communities that Care, Mi Casa Family Services and Education Center and Our Piece of the Pie. These groups partner with local, State and non-profit organizations to ensure the positive development of the young people in my district.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the many youths in need of encouragement and support, the many adults who are engaged in mentoring activities, and the organizations that work tirelessly to close the mentoring gap, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking mentors across the country and recognizing National Mentoring Month.